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25p

THE TIMES

No. 65,390

THURSDAY OCTOBER 5 1995

Case against actress's friend halted

Inquiry into row over 'trial by the media'

By Frances Gibb and Alexandra Frean

THE Attorney-General launched an unprecedented inquiry into the activities of national newspapers yesterday after a trial was stopped for what the judge called unlawful, misleading, scandalous and malicious reporting.

The move, which angered editors, came after Judge Sanders halted the prosecution of Geoff Knights, boyfriend of the *EastEnders* actress Gillian Taylor, for wounding and assault.

Judge Sanders, sitting at Harrow Crown Court, accused the press of a "grave abuse of process" and ordered the case papers to be sent to the Attorney-General so that contempt proceedings could be considered against some editors. He also asked the Director of Public Prosecutions to investigate the possibility that individual journalists made illegal approaches to prosecution witnesses.

The Attorney-General, Sir Nicholas Lyell QC, immediately announced that he would look at the press material put before the court and consider contempt proceedings. He has also asked police to investigate whether "certain journalists have colluded with and suborned prosecution witnesses".

The tough line comes at a time of mounting concern among senior judges that Britain is drifting towards "O.J. Simpson style" pre-trial publicity as solicitors in high-profile cases hold press conferences. But while newspapers reacted with disbelief to the judge's comments, lawyers blamed the Attorney-General for not acting against newspapers in the past. Mark Stephens, who launched legal proceedings against Sir Nicholas for failing to prosecute newspapers for their coverage of the Taylor sisters' murder trial, said that Britain was moving towards "trial by media" as police leaked infor-



Knights wounding case abandoned

mation to the press. "You then get partial, partisan evidence picked over by the media which sets the agenda in advance of the trial," he said. Sir Nicholas's failure to enforce the law had seduced the press into thinking it was open season.

Richard Scott, editor of *Today*, described Judge Sanders' remarks as completely hysterical. "If he seriously says that nobody can report a crime in case somebody is later charged with committing it, it is nonsense. What happens if there is a big bomb and someone is arrested running away from the scene of the crime - does this mean that we can not now say that 15 people died in the explosion?"

Mr Knights, a 41-year-old consultant, had been due to face trial at the Harrow court on October 16 accused of causing Miss Taylor's driver, Martin Davies, grievous bodily harm with intent. He also faced an alternative charge of unlawfully wounding the driver outside the couple's north London home on Easter Sunday.

The incident and Mr Knights' arrest were reported nationally, as was his initial appearance at the magistrates' court. There was also widespread coverage when he was jailed over a weekend for breaking a bail condition ban-

ning him from contacting Miss Taylor.

Yesterday, the judge condemned a string of tabloid papers for their coverage as he ordered the proceedings to be "stayed" - the legal term meaning the case will never be heard - adding that some writers appeared to be conducting a hate campaign against Mr Knights. He particularly criticised Lynda Lee-Potter of the *Daily Mail* who had quoted Miss Taylor and mentioned Mr Knights' previous convictions, and Terry O'Hanlon of the *Sunday Mirror* who described Mr Knights as "jail bait".

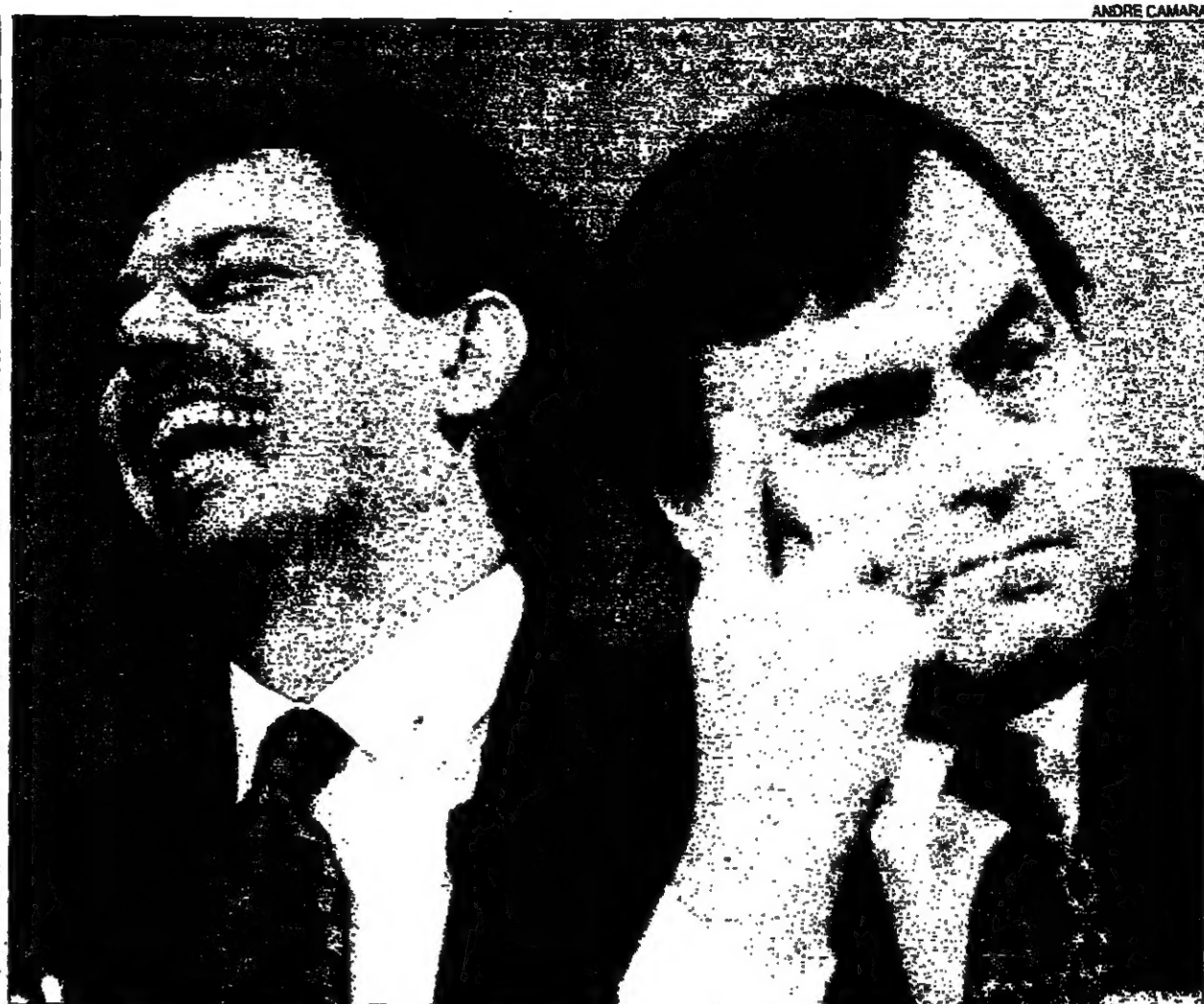
Adverse pre-trial publicity was cited at the Court of Appeal last year when Michelle and Lisa Taylor had their convictions for the murder of Alison Shaughnessy quashed, but the Knights case is believed to be the first where media coverage has been the sole reason for abandoning a trial before it has started.

Mr Knights's defence counsel, Jerome Lynch, had argued then that the proceedings should not go ahead because the pre-trial publicity was "unlawful, misleading, and scandalous" to the extent that it made it impossible for his client to have a fair trial.

The judge's criticisms were rejected last night by the newspapers concerned. Daniel Taylor, solicitor for News International, which owns *Today* and *The Sun* as well as *The Times*, said that the decision to halt the trial "may encourage similar applications, which may have implications for free speech".

Charles Collier-Wright, legal manager of the *Mirror* Group, said that for contempt to be proved, it must be shown that there was a substantial risk of serious prejudice to the proceedings. "That doesn't mean there must be no reporting at all."

Tempestuous pair, page 4



Opposite reactions: Tony Blair and John Prescott listen to David Blunkett at the Labour conference yesterday

Blair rides out an onslaught by Hattersley over schools

By Philip Webster
Political Editor

LABOUR will curb the independence of grant-maintained schools, including ending selection by examinations and interviews with parents, David Blunkett, its education spokesman, pledged yesterday.

But opt-out schools would survive under a Labour government, in spite of a sustained Brighton assault on Tony Blair's "keep them" policy from Roy Hattersley, the former deputy leader, and constituency activists. In a debate that shattered party conference harmony, Mr Blair defeated an attempt to hand all schools back to local authority control.

The day after his conference speech was hailed as a triumph, Mr Blair faced a charge of betrayal from the floor for his decision to send his son, Euan, to the grant-maintained London Oratory School. And there was a

furious clash between Mr Hattersley and Mr Blunkett. Mr Hattersley won a standing ovation after deriding the leadership's proposals for foundation schools as opt-out schools by another name, saying they were "absolutely beyond understanding". Delegates cheered him as he declared: "For God's sake, let's stop apologising for comprehensive schools."

Mr Blunkett, who had told friends he wanted to "have it out with Roy", hit back angrily, accusing Mr Hattersley of playing into the hands of the Conservatives. He told him "those who did not come up with solutions should not turn on those who have".

The new education policy, criticised by some as having been tailored to fit in with Mr Blair's schooling plans for his son, was eventually backed by a comfortable margin. But concerns among activists who believe the softening of Labour's opposition to opt-out schools and its traditional

support for comprehensives is a change too far was apparent.

Labour's move to reform GM schools comes as John Major draws up proposals to make them the norm, giving them far greater independence from local and national politicians. They would be allowed to choose pupils in any way they wanted, either by entrance exam or by interview.

Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, said Labour was, in effect, planning to abolish GM schools by taking away their independence. "Their proposal for foundation schools is a judge designed to hide Labour's embarrassment at Tony Blair's choice of school."

In interviews later, Mr Blunkett emphasised GM schools would lose their privileges, particularly over funding. He told the BBC: "Social selection is not acceptable. That means we must remove selections by parental interview." However, it was emphasised that church

schools could still select on religious grounds.

The difficulties faced by Mr Blair as he tries to flesh out policy commitments were underlined yesterday by renewed confusion over his promise to keep a publicly owned railway system.

Mr Blair and Michael Meacher, the transport spokesman, both declined to confirm the railways would be fully "renationalised". It is clear several schemes are under consideration.

Conference, pages 12, 13
Janet Daley, page 20
Leading article, page 21
Anatole Kaletsky, page 29

Cracks start to show among O J jury

FROM GILES WHITTELL
AND IAN BRODIE
IN LOS ANGELES

THE silence of the O.J. Simpson jurors, who swore not to talk to the media, was broken within hours of their verdicts. One woman juror said she agreed to acquit Mr Simpson of the two murders even though she thought he "probably did do it".

A tearful Anise Aschenbach told her daughter, Denise, that she had voted "not guilty" because of Detective Mark Fuhrman, the officer shown to have lied in the witness box about his racist remarks.

Relaying a telephone conversation, Denise told reporters: "I said something like 'Gosh, you're kidding me'. And she said 'No.' Mrs Aschenbach, one of only two whites on the jury, was still "real shook up", her daughter added.

In a full-length interview, juror Lionel Cryer dismissed the prosecution case as "garbage". The question of race rated "barely a blip" on jurors' radar screens, Mr Cryer, a black 44-year-old marketing executive, told the *Los Angeles Times*.

"We felt there were a lot of opportunities for... contamination of evidence" said Mr Cryer, who complained of being "very stir crazy" after nine months of jury service.

Other jurors, maintaining their silence, ran the gauntlet of the media camped outside their homes.

The jury forewoman is known to have been offered £100,000 by a tabloid newspaper for her story.

Polls yesterday showed that America is split by the case. A nationwide survey by the *Los Angeles Times* found 50 per cent disagree with the jury, 41 per cent agree and 9 per cent are unsure.

Cameras in court, page 3
Ben Macintyre, page 20

Court defeat for Leeson

Lawyers acting for Nick Leeson, the trader blamed for bringing down Barings, the merchant bank, are to appeal to the Federal Constitutional Court after a German ruling that he must return to Singapore to face trial.

A Frankfurt court upheld the extradition of Mr Leeson, who is in the city's main prison, on three charges of forgery, two of defrauding Barings Futures (Singapore) and six of defrauding the Singapore International Monetary Exchange (Simex). Only one charge, that of falsifying a document, was thrown out. Page 25

MI5 chief calls for closer police ties

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

THE Security Service and the police should join forces to combat the growth in organised crime, Stella Rimington, the Director-General of MI5, said last night.

Mrs Rimington said the threat was likely to increase because of the "ease and speed of communications and travel" and the weakening of border and passport controls. The head of the Security Service's appeal for closer ties with the police and foreign law enforcement agencies was seen last night as part of her campaign to expand MI5's role. In recent meetings with the Home Office, Customs and Excise, and Scotland Yard, Mrs Rimington is known to have recommended that MI5 assist the police in "non-traditional" areas such as organised crime and drug trafficking. MI5's traditional functions have focused on espionage, subversion and terrorism.

Her latest public attempt to promote MI5's intelligence-gathering expertise was made during a lecture to mark the seventy-fifth anniversary of

the English Speaking Union. Addressing an invited audience at Skinner's Hall in the City of London, Mrs Rimington said that counter-organised crime would require "those same methods which have been developed to deal with more familiar threats, such as terrorism".

She said: "This means the same strategic approach, the same investigative techniques. But, above all, it means the same close national and international co-operation between security-intelligence and law enforcement agencies."

Mrs Rimington said the impact and seriousness of organised crime on Britain was still being assessed, "but there seems little doubt that crime of this sort will grow".

The "tried and tested" techniques used to catch spies and monitor Soviet intelligence officers had been adapted to meet the threat of international terrorism. Now that same expertise, including "classic, long-term investigations", was needed in dealing with the comparatively new phenomenon of organised crime.

Labour implored BBC to give Blair speech priority

By Philip Webster and Alexandra Frean

THE Labour Party tried to influence BBC and ITN coverage of Tony Blair's speech to the party conference on Tuesday by imploring the broadcasters not to lead their news programmes with the O.J. Simpson verdict, it emerged yesterday.

Alastair Campbell, Mr Blair's press secretary and a former political journalist, wrote to John Birt, of the BBC, and Nigel Dacre, of ITN, at lunchtime on Tuesday to try to ensure that the Simpson story did not eclipse coverage of Mr Blair.

In an identical letter to both he wrote: "Some of your journalists have suggested that we are unlikely to get as much coverage for the leader's speech as in previous years because of the O.J. Simpson trial verdict at 6pm. It has even been said that there is little chance of Mr Blair's speech leading your bulletins."

"While of course news judgments must be made in the light of other stories on any particular day, and while I fully understand there is much interest in the verdict, I



Campbell: BBC and ITN rejected his approach

would implore you not to lose sight both of the news value and of the importance to the country of Mr Blair's speech. I hope you will communicate our concerns."

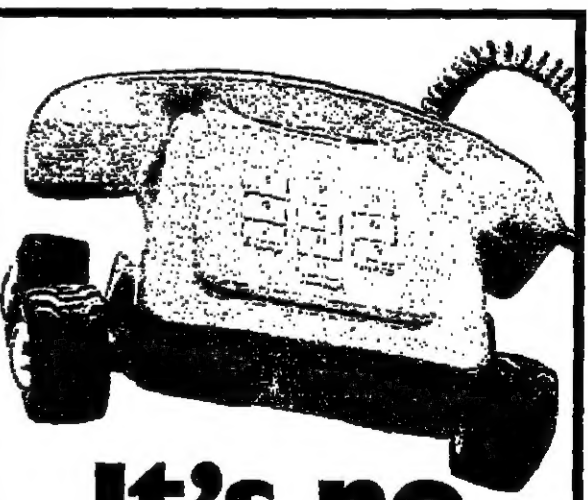
Tony Hall, the BBC's managing director of news and current affairs, sent an immediate reply to Mr Campbell saying that the corporation was capable of making its own

decisions. ITN ignored Mr Campbell's fax.

In the event, BBC1 led with Mr Blair's speech on the *Six O'Clock News*, but switched quickly to live coverage of the Simpson verdict. The *Nine O'Clock News* opened with an extended item on the Labour conference. ITN opened its early evening news and *News at Ten* with the O.J. Simpson report.

Mr Campbell's colleagues said yesterday that he had merely been doing his job, but the BBC was furious at suggestions that it had caved in. Peter Bell, head of BBC News, said: "There is always debate about news priorities, but to suggest that the running order of BBC news programmes was influenced under pressure is defamatory."

Mr Bell added that Malcolm Balen, who edited the *Nine O'Clock News* on Tuesday, had not even been aware of Mr Campbell's fax. A BBC official said that neither Mr Hall nor Mr Birt had been involved in deciding the running order of the *Nine O'Clock News*.

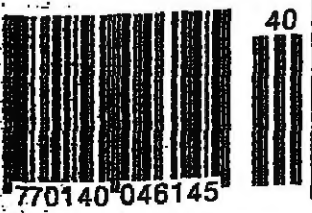


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Hattersley exposed as party's new outside left

FROM the Brighton podium yesterday, Roy Hattersley confronted his new hero's pedestal on the left with a fastidious shudder. He had movingly restated beliefs he has held for 40 years. But so headlong has been new Labour's Rightward rush that, simply by staying still, Mr Hattersley has moved from centre-right to far-left. Now the comrades (new comrades) one delegate asked love him. An unlikely demagogue, the famous essayist stood bemused. A strange sound assailed those fleshy ears.

They were cheering. Cheering him. They were standing

up! Maybe they wanted to lynch him? He is used to this. Hattersley hesitated, accepted that the impossible had occurred — he had pleased the rabble — and, eyeing the scene like a pudding he wasn't sure he had ordered, received their cheers. One recalled *Wind in the Willows* when Toad of Toad Hall becomes the hero of the ferrets and weasels.

It is not easy to picture the great gastronomic manning the barricades with Dave Nellist, but we may have to try. Along with Li Davies, new Labour's thought-police may now ban him. I left the hall, and, passing a full-



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

colour portrait of Tony Blair on the cover of *Management Today*, walked down onto Brighton's shingle beach.

It was deserted. The sea rolled in. To my left a young couple stood by the waves in motionless embrace. On the skyline the giant arms of a funfair octopus-ride — the Palace Pier's "Sensational Ranger" — scissored the air. To my right the drowning chandelier of the ruined West Pier tottered through the

breakers. By my feet was a skull-and-crossbones: *Danger — Mines*.

Onto the beach walked a score of cameramen, the Shadow Defence Secretary, David Clark, and one *Times* reporter. With them came a group who had buried dud landmines under the shingle and would now "find" them for the cameras. I must have taken new Labour too much to heart for I assumed this was a sales pitch for

landmines, and that Mr Clark had been invited to approve of an explosion. But it was a protest against landmines. Clark put on a spacesuit with helmet and, wielding a mine-detector, began a Chuck Berry crabwalk across the shingle, swinging his detector as though strimming an explosive herbaceous border.

The cameramen ignored him as they were waiting for Glenys Kinnock. Clark — lone, fatuous, Godfrey in *Dad's Army* — was left strimming the shingle. An anti-smoking person with a giant cardboard cigarette posted by the waves. Glenys

Kinnock arrived, dressed as an air hostess. She had not brought Neil in case he fell over.

Clark was pushed away. Spurning the helmet (it's harder to look caring in a helmet) Glenys donned the space jacket and grabbed a toddler, Angela, who had been raced up in a pushchair. Cradling the two-year-old, Mrs Kinnock pointed disapprovingly at a piece of shrapnel and told the child it was horrid. Angela looked in danger of putting it up her nose. The cameras whirled ("Glenys, could you go that way. Looking at Angela now..."). The toddler, a natural,

was now upstaging Mrs Kinnock and faces an uncertain fate. For an unforgivable moment I fantasised that the mine might not be a dud. What a photo op!

The cameramen, Glenys, the toddler and crew, departed. On the wind came the chant of a Hari Krishna group. On the pier the Sensational Ranger scissored on. On the beach the young lovers continued to embrace, frozen in passion, for all the world oblivious of what had just happened.

Perhaps nothing had.

Conference, pages 12, 13

Tough regulations are demanded to safeguard vulnerable overseas students

Bogus university traced to flat in east London

By DAVID CHARTER AND JOHN O'LEARY

A SELF-STYLED university college that launched a recruitment drive across 20 American campuses was traced by *The Times* last night to an answering machine at a flat in Hackney, east London.

The case of Islington College of London, which claims to be a new British university sector college with 2,000 full-time students, prompted fresh demands for tough regulations to safeguard overseas students.

The call for a statutory framework came from college watchdogs who said that only 100 out of 3,000 private colleges had joined a voluntary inspection scheme. It follows the departure of 15 students from Warrborough College, near Oxford, who claimed they were misled into believing they were attending the ancient university.

International student officers from at least 20 American universities were invited in March by Richard Williams, the assistant director of Islington College of London, to a London conference to learn more about the institution. A second letter offered them \$5,000 (£3,300) each to attend followed by \$4,000 per student, adding "naturally, any arrangements that we work

out will always be kept confidential between us". The letter added: "I have personally discussed this plan with five overseas advisers from four US colleges. They all thought it would make a great deal of sense as a retirement plan to provide a much needed supplement to their own college pensions (usually not very high)". The first letter was

real City and Islington College. Tom Jupp, college principal, said: "We tried to investigate this because it clearly appears unethical, but the phone was never answered. We could never establish if it even existed."

Last night *The Times* spoke to the occupant of the top floor flat in Navarino Road, Hackney, Sonja Hood, who lives at

him for a month or so but we became deluged with calls at all times of the day. I never met him. I felt an idiot and I would like to get to the bottom of it. I don't know whether the organisation exists or not."

She said she had no telephone number for Mr Williams, who would call her for details of the messages from America. These have dried up since the summer, she said. Robin Laidlaw, Chief Executive of the British Accreditation Council, said: "We think there should be regulation because bad money drives out good. The independent sector is important as a route into universities for overseas students, but there is very little information about the colleges. We don't even know the full size of the sector." The Government abandoned accreditation in 1982, and ministers have refused previous demands to reinstate the system.

Hillegarde Thomas, overseas study adviser for the University of Virginia, said she played along with the Islington College of London at first to try to investigate it, but pulled out when it wanted to use her name on publicity material.

Mrs Thomas said: "I feel a

great responsibility towards my students so I check everything out thoroughly. I think this one was definitely a scam. Offering \$800 for me to fly over first class with my husband to London sounded too good to be true."

"A couple of times a year we get these kinds of things from Britain but it is generally trading on the Oxford or Cambridge name."

The Higher Education Funding Council for England



The house where a woman was paid to take telephone calls for the college

Spokeswoman Louise Muddle said: "No offence seems to have been committed but we cannot say anything about this organisation because we cannot find out anything more about it."

Mr Jupp said: "We tried to investigate this because it clearly appears unethical, but we have never managed to get the phone answered. We were never able to establish if it even existed."

Lambeth Council in south London is to pay nearly £500,000 a year to recruit six "highly ambitious" executive directors to transform the discredited local authority into a showpiece. The executives will have wider powers and responsibilities than traditional local government chief officers and form a kind of cabinet, developing strategies, planning and ensuring co-ordination, as well as running their own departments.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Abortion order on handicap girl, 17

A mentally handicapped girl aged 17 had an abortion on a judge's orders. It was disclosed yesterday. Mr Justice Pringle said she would have been unable to cope with pregnancy, motherhood or having the child adopted.

The girl, referred to only as S, was 12 weeks pregnant when the judge gave his ruling after a private hearing in the High Court in Belfast. In a reserved judgment released yesterday, he said termination of the pregnancy was clearly in the girl's best interests, although he emphasised that each case was different.

The matter was brought by the Western Health Board which had previously made the girl a ward of court. A consultant gynaecologist had given evidence that the girl did not know she was pregnant. A psychiatrist had said that, if the pregnancy continued, a mental breakdown was a strong possibility.

Drugs seized

Police seized two million capsules of the sleeping pill temazepam from a lorry in Feltham, west London. Detectives believe the haul was destined for Scotland, where thousands of addicts abuse the drug, often mixing it with heroin. Two men were being held yesterday and two more were released without charge. From next month possession of temazepam without a prescription will be illegal.

Land Rover blow

The Army's traditional ambulance, supplied by Land Rover since 1948, could soon be replaced by an Austrian all-terrain vehicle after a Ministry of Defence procurement committee recommended against buying British. Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, is due to make a decision by the end of the month after trials in which the Pinzgauer is said to have out-performed the Land Rover.

Cabinet council

Edinburgh has beaten Oxford as the location for a new film based on *Jude the Obscure*. Thomas Hardy's novel was set in the fictional town of Christminster, which was based on Oxford. However, the producers chose Edinburgh because its cobble streets, Georgian architecture and winding closes looked older. Many of the buildings in Oxford had been cleaned recently and looked too pristine.

Obscure choice

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, condemned the destruction of mosques and ethnic cleansing in the former Yugoslavia. Speaking in Cairo, he said: "I understand Muslim fears that much of this was aimed at eradicating Islam from Europe. Sometimes the fears and misunderstandings of long-estranged faith communities are deliberately exploited, and violence and murder replace dialogue."

Carey plea

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Yachtsmen ahoy

Sir Robin Knox-Johnston, who single-handedly circumnavigated the world, started a search for 200 amateur sailors willing to pay up to £21,000 to take part in a round-the-world race. The ten-month race, involving a fleet of identical yachts, will start from London next October. The 14 planned stops include Hong Kong just before its handover to China. Applicants should ring 01853 545706.

MP puts the knife into Commons colleagues

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR and his Shadow Cabinet yesterday came under the most bitter personal onslaught yet delivered in public by a Labour MP.

In a book by Brian Sedgmore, the backbench Labour MP, that his colleagues will probably find more amusing than shocking, Mr Blair is accused of being an "eminently forgettable barrister" whose face is "distorted by a fixed grin". Mr Sedgmore's analysis of Mr Blair's political ideology is no more flattering.

He claims Mr Blair has "hijacked a political party in the pursuit of personal power" and is a "supporter of selective education for his own family", a reference to his decision to send his son to a grammar school.

The book continues, in similarly caustic vein, that Mr Blair "hides himself away with his nappy-rash advisers" and "accepts money to run his private office from a slush fund, the Industrial Research Trust, whose beneficiaries are unknown".

In *The Insider's Guide to Parliament*, published on October 16, the left-wing MP for Hackney South and Shoreditch rips into many of Mr Blair's Shadow Cabinet members with similar gusto. The

warts-and-all descriptions are listed in a section under the heading *The Real Who's Who of Politicians*, as would be compiled by their political opponents.

Harriet Harman, the Shadow Employment Secretary, is described as "human being who turned into a mannequin" who failed to "master the complexities of economic analysis". Jack Cunningham, the Shadow Trade and Industry Secretary, is lampooned as Alderman Vainity, "the vainest MP in the House of Commons", while John Prescott,

the Labour deputy leader, might be said by his opponents to be struggling with literacy, a male chauvinist with a big ego and difficult to work with.

Ron Davies, the Shadow Welsh Secretary, is ranked in Mr Sedgmore's venomous tome as another vain front-bencher, having had the gall to have his teeth capped. Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, is savagely criticised over his decision not to stand for the Labour leadership and is reported to have angered his Shadow Cabinet colleagues through his friendship with Peter Mandelson, Mr Blair's adviser.

The sexual proclivities of many MPs are hinted at or openly described by the long-serving MP whose main previous claim to fame was as a writer for *Private Eye*, under the sobriquet *Justinianforthemoney*.

Bored of Westminster are listed as Euro-sceptics Bill Cash, Tory MP for Stafford, and Nigel Spearing, Labour MP for Newham South.

Although the book is billed as "explosive", most of its 143 pages comprise commonly-known tit-battle of the Westminster corridors and an exhaustive compilation of facts gleaned from cuttings.



Sedgmore rips into fellow MPs with gusto

Rail discount is scrapped

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

A DISCOUNTED rail ticket offer has been stopped because it was attracting the wrong kind of passenger.

ScotRail staff, who are normally obliged to tell travellers of the cheapest method of getting to their destination, say they have been threatened with disciplinary action if they tell passengers about the 33 per cent discount available for travelling on the Argyle line from Glasgow to Larank.

The discount was brought in last month to reward long-suffering users of the line, which has been closed for ten months because of flooding. When it reopened on Septem-

ber 24, passengers buying tickets for journeys starting or finishing at any Argyle line station east of Bridgeport were given a one-third discount.

The offer runs until Saturday. It did not take long for passengers travelling to Glasgow from destinations such as Ayr and Largs to realise that they could save hundreds of pounds on their season tickets if they bought tickets to Bridgeport but disembarked at Glasgow Central Station.

An annual ticket from Ayr to Glasgow costs £1,204 but an annual ticket from Ayr to Bridgeport costs £806.70. Almost 100 of the discounted

annual tickets have been sold in the past ten days. ScotRail staff who were advising customers that they could save money by buying an Argyle line ticket believed they were doing passengers a service but one ScotRail employee, who would not be named, said: "Staff are now being threatened with disciplinary action for advising customers on how to save money."

A spokesman for ScotRail admitted managers had consulted lawyers about the loophole but were told there was nothing that could be done. He denied threatening disciplinary action.

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Handwritten text in Arabic script.

First interview should pay off \$10m legal bills

FROM IAN BRODIE IN LOS ANGELES

O. J. SIMPSON'S personal lawyer said yesterday he is hoping to profit from his acquittal by using television, the medium that carried every facet of his double murder trial and which ended with millions transfixed in America and elsewhere around the world by the final moments.

But this time there would be a difference. Viewers would have to pay to see Mr Simpson in his first full interview since the verdict.

Negotiations were under way between his agents and executives in Las Vegas who specialise in pay-per-view events such as championship boxing. One idea was for the interview to be conducted by Larry King, the ubiquitous celebrity host often criticised for asking soft questions.

Estimates varied wildly over how much Mr Simpson could earn from this endeavour, but all pointed to a yield running anywhere from \$10 million (£6.45 million) to \$60 million. At least, he would have enough to pay off his defence team, whose bill is expected to reach \$10 million. Pay-per-view boxing often costs as much as \$20 for a world heavyweight fight.

Confirmation that Mr Simpson will try to turn a profit when he does speak out came from Robert Kardashian, his personal lawyer and a

friend, who took charge of Mr Simpson's garment bag on his return from Chicago after the murders and never let the prosecution see its contents. "O. J. has a lot to say and he wants to tell the public how he feels," Mr Kardashian said.

Otherwise, Mr Simpson seems unlikely to regain the profitable advertising endorsements he enjoyed before his arrest when he was a spokesman for Hertz and a football commentator on NBC. On Madison Avenue, the prospects were considered unlikely that any name brand would take a chance on him now, given that polls show 50 per cent of Americans consider that he is guilty.

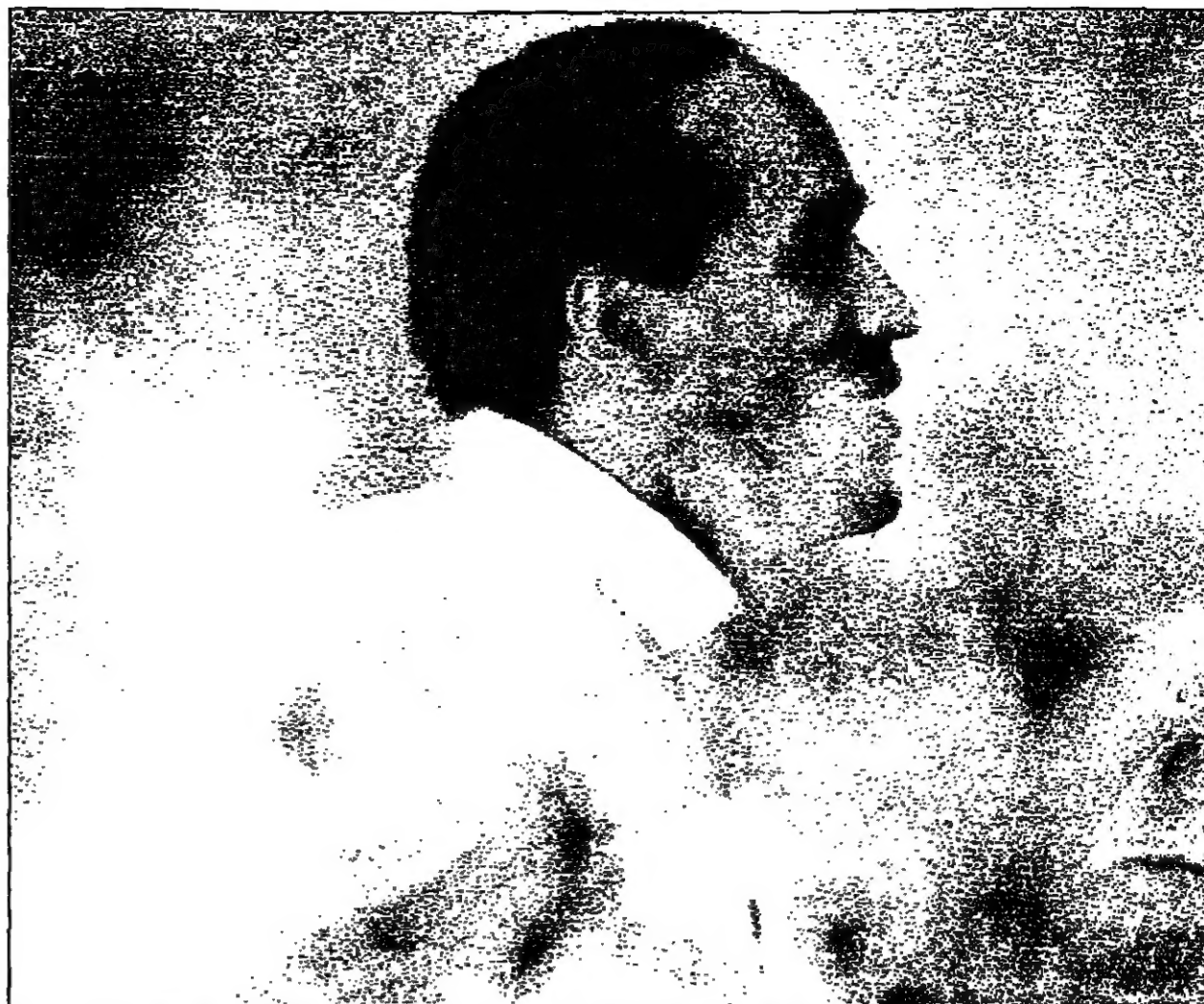
Questions continue to be raised over whether television helps or hinders the administration of justice. The legal profession is divided, with some lawyers and judges insisting that coverage alters the nature of cases. Others are convinced that hearings are untainted by the camera's presence.

The impact of the Simpson trial's television coverage will be felt for years to come. Already there are courses devoted to the case at American law schools. Broadcasters and lawyers will long debate

whether the camera's presence prolonged the trial or otherwise impinged on the administration of justice.

The O. J. effect goes far beyond the media and legal circles. Millions of Americans, drawn into a giant national classroom, have learnt how the law works, warts and all, from their direct experience of the evidence and from the legion of legal experts who commented on the proceedings. From now on, Americans called for jury service will know what to expect. They will be alert to the grandstanding wiles of defence and prosecution lawyers and the whims of judges. They will discern when constant interruptions and objections are simply irritants. They will recognise long-winded defences that have spared no cost and those that are ill-prepared.

Televised trials are also a lure for successful lawyers, who see them as a golden form of free advertising. It is hard to imagine that Johnnie Cochran will ever go short of clients after his performance on behalf of Mr Simpson. Yet opening up the courts for all to see still meets with disapproval by the top nine justices in the land, the United States Supreme Court, who bar the cameras from their own bench as an unnecessary distraction and have been instrumental,



O. J. Simpson celebrates at a party at his Los Angeles mansion after he walked free from the court

after a limited experiment, in keeping them out of all federal courts. In state courts, television is firmly established. Cameras are banned in only three of the 50 states — Indiana, Mississippi and South Dakota. The remainder allow them in under a variety of guidelines.

In the Simpson case, Judge Lance Ito's failure to control the lawyers' behaviour in court was more at fault than

the cameras, according to Fred Graham, chief anchorman for Court TV, the cable network offering 24-hour coverage of trials which saw its audience increase 500 per cent for the trial. "The camera does not affect court process; that depends on the judge," Mr Graham said. Others criticised Judge Ito for allowing arguments by both sides to run on endlessly.

Questions of media cover-

age obstructing American justice have been raised before. In 1925, an infamous trial was held in Tennessee to challenge the state's insistence that evolution classes in state schools must follow the biblical example and not argue that people were descended from apes. The trial was the first to be broadcast by radio, allowing two flamboyant lawyers, Clarence Darrow and William Jennings Bryan, to orate thun-

deringly across the land. Newsreel cameras and still photographers clogged the court, adding to the judicial circus.

By contrast, the Simpson case, with only a remote-controlled camera high on one wall, was a model of decorum. But the Dancing Ilos, a late-night television comedy troupe of look-alikes, were a serious blow to his honour's dignity.

Verdict is a matter of black and white

FROM GILES WHITTILL IN SIMI VALLEY, CALIFORNIA

"IF YOU disagree with the verdict, switch on your lights," said a radio talkshow host as rush-hour traffic on the Ronald Reagan Freeway wound over the Simi Hills to this white commuter enclave north of Los Angeles. By 5.30pm, an hour before dusk, the road was ablaze with headlights. There were no riots in Simi Valley as news of O. J. Simp-

REACTION

son's acquittal sank in. But in Los Angeles, where Rodney King's assailants were acquitted by a white jury in 1992, sparking riots, there was disillusion — in contrast to the jubilation across much of black America.

JoAnn Jolman, 38, a Simi Valley housewife, said: "It's a disgrace to us and to the United States. I was saddened for the families because someone got away with the perfect crime: the crime of the century." Sergeant Bob Gardner, of the Simi Valley police, said he thought the verdict proved that "nowhere in the world is the question of guilt or innocence so irrelevant in a criminal trial" as in Los Angeles.

The verdict has split the country along racial lines. Fran Hardin, 20, a black woman from South-Central, said: "I'm glad he got off, because of the police."

Defence 'dream team' splits over racism charges

By IAN BRODIE

A CLASH of egos that had simmered beneath the surface of O. J. Simpson's "dream team" burst into the open with angry charges of racism and vows never to speak to each other again.

The feud was taken public within hours of the verdict by Robert Shapiro, originally leader of the defence, who attacked Johnnie Cochran for going against an earlier decision that race should not and would not be part of the case.

Mr Shapiro told Barbara Walters of ABC News: "Not only did we play the race card, we played it from the bottom of the deck."

He said that the change of strategy was embraced after Mr Cochran took over leadership of the defence with Mr Simpson's approval. Mr Shapiro said he was "deeply offended" by Mr Cochran's closing address to the jury in which he compared the racist attitudes of Detective Mark Fuhrman to Hitler and the Holocaust.

Mr Shapiro, who is Jewish, said: "The Holocaust stands alone as the most horrible human event in modern civilisation. With it came Hitler and to compare him in any way to a rogue cop in my opinion was wrong."

He said that he would never work with Mr Cochran again.



Cochran: "We played the credibility card"

and did not attend a celebratory dinner for the defence.

Mr Cochran expressed sadness that Mr Shapiro had chosen the immediate aftermath of the trial to express his bitterness. He said Mr Shapiro was possessed by demons that needed exorcising.

He said he could not agree that they played the race card from the bottom of the pack. "We didn't play the race card, we played the credibility card."

As for the Holocaust comparison, Mr Cochran said it was not intended to trivialise the deaths of millions of Jews. He was less conciliatory, however, over comparing Mr Fuhrman to Hitler, saying it was a sensitive issue for blacks to hear a police officer saying he wanted to kill them.

Acquittal highlights jury taste for protest

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

TO MANY outraged white Americans, O. J. Simpson's acquittal was ultimate proof that black jurors today will quite literally let a black man get away with murder.

Professional jury watchers say predominantly black juries are increasingly using their power to protest against broad racial injustice regardless of evidence before them — a contention bolstered by several high-profile cases.

In 1990, a jury of ten blacks and two whites acquitted Marion Barry, black Mayor of Washington, of all but one of 14 charges arising from an FBI "sting" operation that filmed him smoking crack cocaine in a hotel room. A US

district judge later accused the jury of "anarchy".

In 1992, predominantly black jurors acquitted black men filmed beating a white man, Reginald Denny, during the Los Angeles riots. The Wall Street Journal yesterday recalled a 1990 case in which an all-black jury in Washington acquitted Darryl Smith of murder. One juror disclosed that most of his colleagues believed Mr Smith was guilty but had bowed to holdouts who "didn't want to send any more young black men to jail".

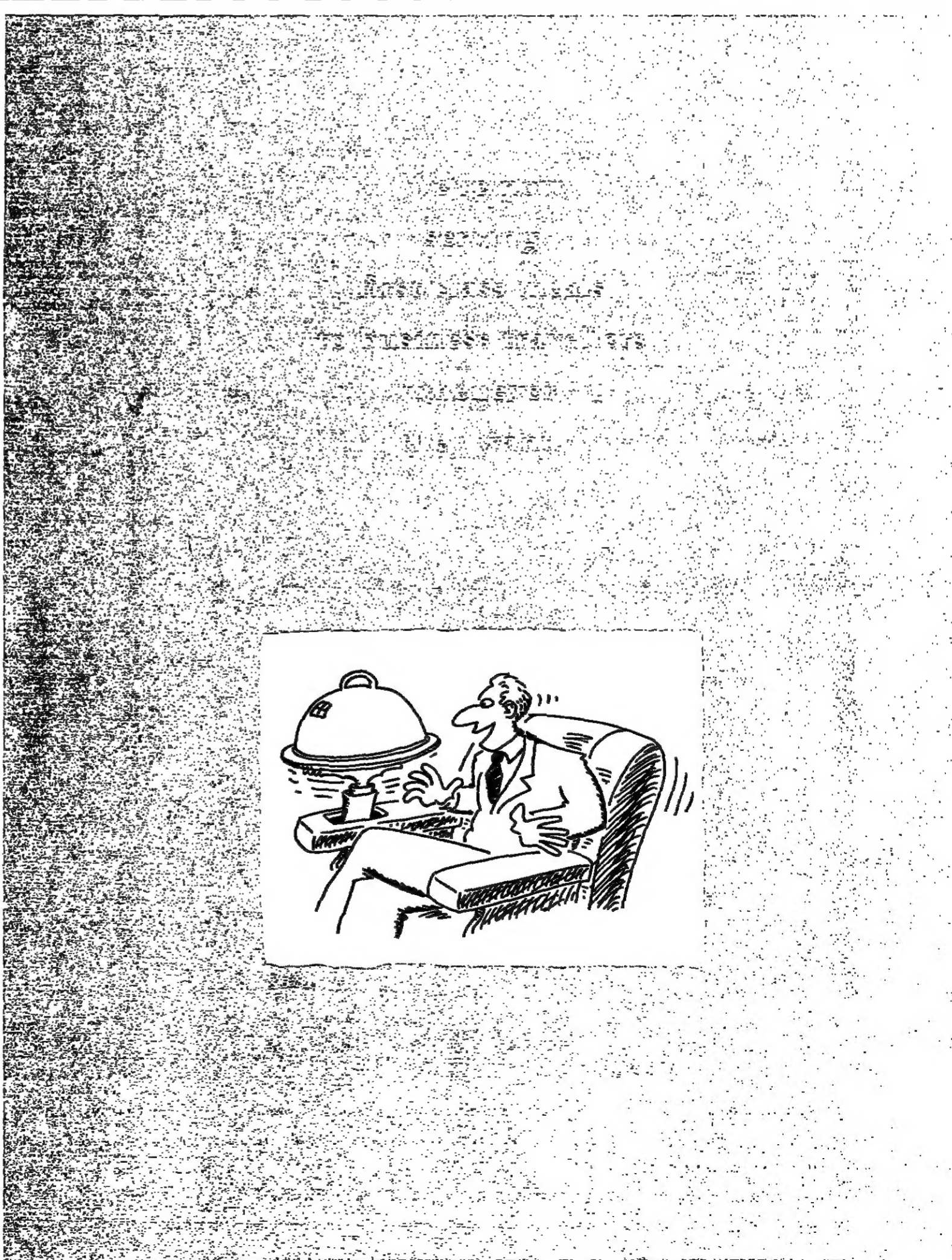
On average, 17 per cent of American criminal court cases end in acquittals, but in cities where most residents are black the figure shoots up. Washington's acquittal rate is nearly 29 per cent, Detroit's 30 per cent, and in New York's Bronx it is 47.6 per cent.

The Simpson verdict on Tuesday brought cries of protest from white Americans and demands for reform of the criminal justice system yesterday. One snap poll showed 60 per cent of whites still believed O. J. to be guilty. By contrast, 90 per cent of blacks believed the verdict was correct. Polls show two-thirds of blacks believe the white-run system is racist. Black defence lawyers, such as Mr Simpson's Johnnie Cochran, stand a big chance of success when inviting black juries to send a message of protest to the world.

Some legal scholars argue such activist juries are a legitimate American tradition. The Journal recalled how jurors in colonial times acquitted defendants of political crimes against the British Crown, and how Northern jurors acquitted people harbouring runaway slaves.

Nor is such activism limited to blacks. An all-white jury acquitted four white LA police officers of the videotaped beating of a black motorist, Rodney King, in 1992.

Ben Macintyre, page 20

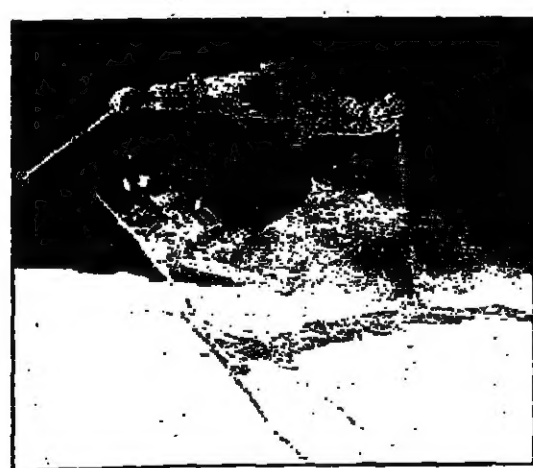


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THE TOP 50 TRIED AND TESTED SKIING HOLIDAYS

IN WEEKEND

44-PAGE MEN'S FASHION SUPPLEMENT

IN THE

MAGAZINE

Court is told the media waged a campaign of hate against soap star's boyfriend after his arrest

Judge condemns 'scandalous' trial by tabloids

BY ANDREW PIERCE

JUDGE Roger Sanders listed several "scandalous" examples where the press had broken rules governing court reporting as he halted the Geoff Knights case. Mr Knights, boyfriend of the *EastEnders* actress Gillian Tylor, was charged with wounding and assault on Martin Davies, her chauffeur.

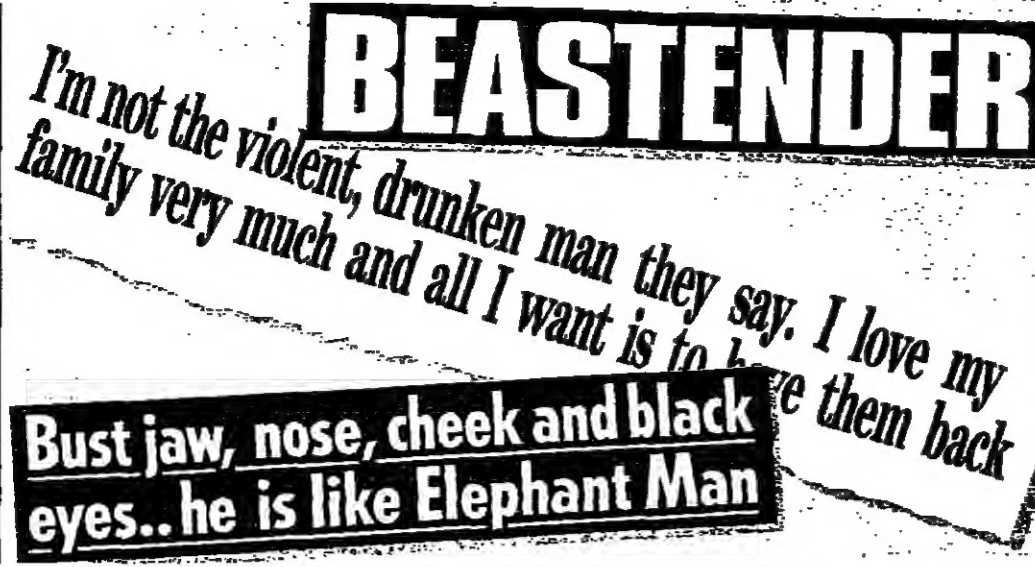
Judge Sanders said: "It is alleged that the defendant appeared, and perhaps misunderstanding the situation, set about Mr Davies in a vicious and sustained attack which caused him serious injuries." Mr Knights was arrested. Miss Tylor also claimed she was injured by him. The press was quickly on the scene.

"From then on what one would have expected to be treated as sub judice became an opportunity for certain newspaper editors to take it upon themselves to try Mr Knights in their columns without giving him a hearing," the judge said.

The media should have been extra cautious after Mr Knights was charged but only 24 hours later the *Daily Mirror* ran a front-page story with an alleged account by Mr Davies of what had happened. Mr Knights was shown in handcuffs near the headline "I'm terrified of that man". The *Sun* carried the alleged attack with a headline:



Geoff Knights and Gillian Tylor: several examples of the newspaper coverage that Judge Roger Sanders said was "outrageous and oppressive"



a witness and was fully bound at the committal proceedings. It also had to be borne in mind that much of the "so-called" evidence produced by press witnesses in court was discredited as being unreliable.

The judge said: "What does emerge strongly from the documents I have studied is that certain reporters were determined to run a hate campaign against Knights, unchecked by their editors and without any regard to the interest of justice."

The *People* reported that Mr Knights had been placed in custody because he had breached his bail by contacting Miss Tylor. The *Daily Mirror*, the *Daily Express* and the *Sun* reported his release three days later.

Each paper, he said, referred to allegations against Mr Knights even though they knew the trial date was fixed.

"There could now be no more obvious example of deliberate acts being done which were calculated to prejudice a fair trial," said the judge.

"I have absolutely no doubt that the mass of media publicity in this case was unfair, outrageous and oppressive," he added.

Case halted, page 1

"Two black eyes, bust nose and jaw like the elephant man". Another declared: "EastEnders' driver is scarred for life say cops."

The *Daily Star* said that Mr Knights had gone "berserk with an iron bar" after catching his lover "fleeing into the night with a new man". But, said the judge, there appeared to be no evidence of any weapon having been used although

it was fair to point out that Mr Davies's injuries were extensive. The judge said the *Daily Star's* coverage appeared to be complete invention. The next day, he said, the same paper carried a large article with the comment: "He may lose an eye."

In a double-page spread in the *Daily Mail*, Lynda Lee-Potter "graphically described" the alleged

events and mentioned Mr Knights's previous convictions. The committal proceedings were only weeks away and Miss Tylor was a main prosecution witness.

"To many it may seem that Ms Lee-Potter has written the next episode of *EastEnders* to the potential jury, many of whom will have read this article," the judge said.

Three days later, on May 16,

there was a "disturbing development". Miss Tylor made a statement to the police saying she did not wish to pursue her allegation of assault against Mr Knights, did not wish to attend court, and did not want to give evidence about the alleged attack on the driver.

She wrote in the statement: "I feel that I am physically and mentally unable to endure the trauma of

attending court in respect of this matter, and feel it would be prejudicial to my health to do so. I also feel that I am unable to give evidence against Geoff Knights due to the fact that he is the father of my young daughter."

That, said the judge, put the Crown Prosecution Service in difficulties. But the fact remained that Miss Tylor was not released as

Tempestuous partners are no strangers to melodrama

BY ANDREW PIERCE

THE tempestuous relationship of Geoff Knights and Gillian Tylor has been as colourful as the script for the soap character she plays in *EastEnders*.

Mr Knights, a one-time millionaire property dealer, car salesman, and now business consultant, has rarely been out of the media spotlight since their seven-year relationship began.

As he left Harrow Crown Court yesterday Mr Knights, 40, even drew a link with O.J. Simpson, the star of an albeit bigger media circus. "I could feel for O.J. last night at 6 o'clock. He had eight to 10 hours of suffering. I could feel for him," Mr Knights said. "The relief — you can't explain it," he said.

Like O.J. Simpson, Mr Knights was looking forward to going home to celebrate. Asked about a reunion with Miss Tylor, he said: "We are very happy." Miss Tylor, who was to have been a key prosecution witness in the trial, was "over the moon", he added.

Since she became famous, the life and times of Gillian Tylor, 40, who plays the downtrodden owner of the Albert Square "caff" have become better known than

topless model claimed she had been seeing Mr Knights behind Miss Tylor's back. Days later they were reunited. The reunion made the papers.

When Miss Tylor discovered in 1992 that she was pregnant, with their child Jessica, the couple had already agreed to split up.

In April 1993, Gillian Tylor turned up for work in a pair of dark glasses, which were to feature in her wardrobe more than once, to conceal a black eye. She blamed it on Jessica.

On the same day the tabloids were running allegations that Miss Tylor had an affair with an *EastEnders* scriptwriter and had been attacked by Mr Knights when he found out.

The most damaging personal episode for the couple came in October 1994 when they lost a libel action against *The Sun*. Miss Tylor had been accused by the newspaper of performing a sex act with Mr Knights in their car on a slip road off the A1. She lost the case and the legal bill was estimated at £500,000. A book about Gillian Tylor's life quickly followed in an attempt to pay off the costs.

In January the couple were engaged in another war of words when she was arrested for drink-driving after being involved in a car crash. Jessica, aged three, was in the back seat. Two months later Mr Knights was fined £2,000 after launching a karate-style kick against a policeman and throwing him down a flight of stairs. The *Daily Star* branded him *Beast Ender* on its front page. The bizarre incident occurred after Mr Knights had telephoned the police and said: "A woman has been beaten up by a bloke. According to her, she has broken her nose." When the police arrived Miss Tylor was nursing a bleeding nose.

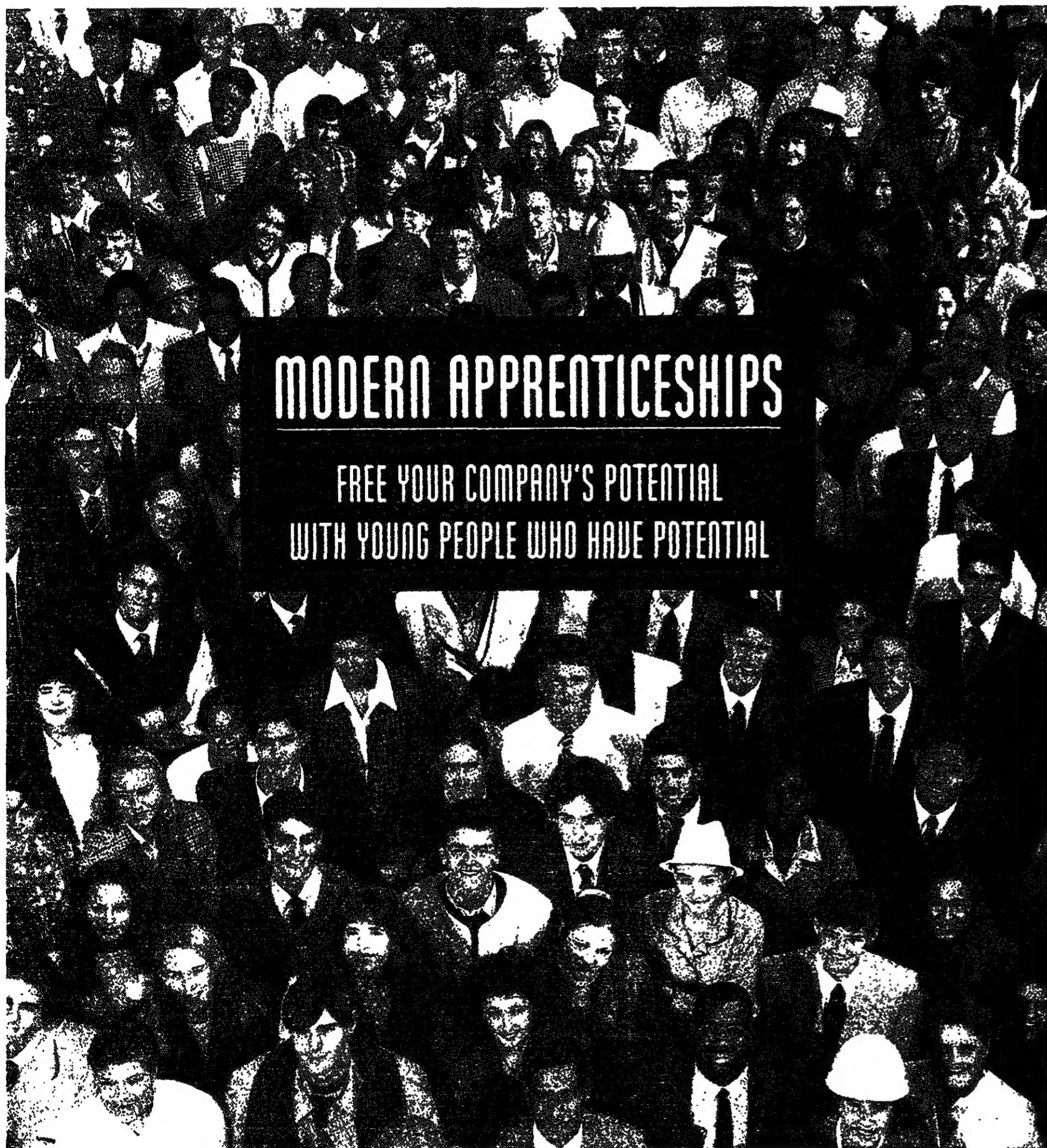
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In September 1989 the actress crashed her car driving away from Mr Knights's home. They denied they had been arguing. In April 1990 they split up after a tabloid newspaper reported that a



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Nouveau riche add to rising stock of British millionaires

Time running out for lottery winners

Woman wins 'milestone victory' to wave the flag for football equality

School is closed by stinging spiders

Little attention was paid to the incident until last week when the headmaster came upon a dozen more of the creatures, which are black and about a third of an inch long, lurking behind filing cabinets.

A specimen was sent to the medical entomology centre at Cambridge University for identification. Ian Burgess, the centre's deputy director, said: "The milder winters we have had in the last ten years may have allowed a few colonies to become established."

Mr Andrew Rankin, QC, did not defend Timothy Clayton, barrister's clerk, jailed for theft at the Old Bailey (reported September 29) but gave evidence on his behalf as to character. Defending counsel was Mr Orlando Pownall.

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Car gang prefers trailer to priceless prototype

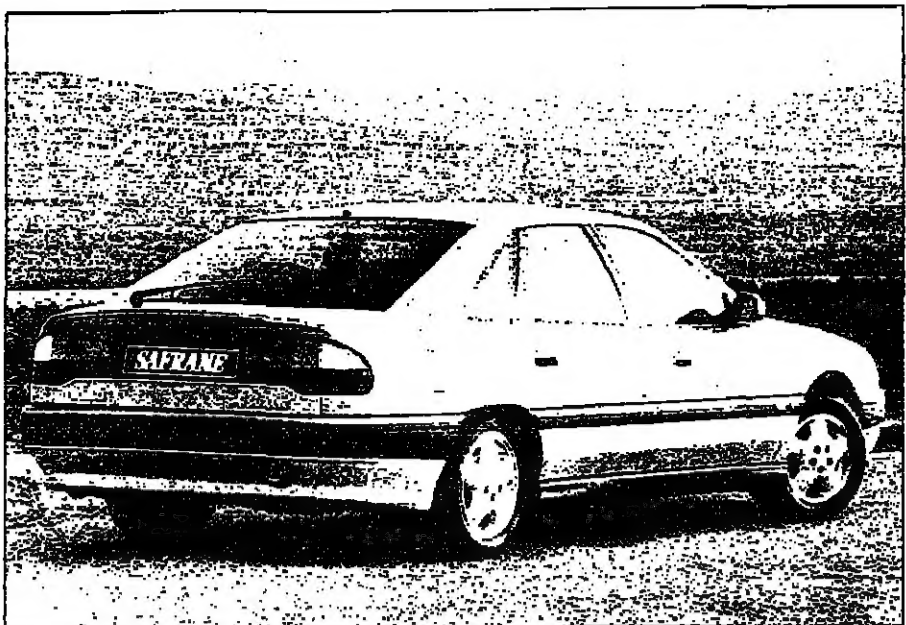
By KEVIN EASON
MOTORING EDITOR

THIEVES who stole a secret prototype car and the trailer on which it was being transported dumped the vehicle — priceless to rival manufacturers — and made off with the trailer, worth only a few hundred pounds.

A spokeswoman for Renault, the car's maker, said last night: "They clearly had no idea what they had. Fortunately for us, we now have the car back."

The blue Safrane, with French registration plates and packed with innovative features, was being taken from Renault's headquarters in France to Peterborough for testing at Perkins, the diesel engine specialists, when it was stolen from the Pavilion services on the M2 at Farthing Corner, Kent.

A Safrane executive car



The prototype version of the Safrane was packed with secret information

costs between £16,000 and £26,000 in the showroom, but the prototype is understood to have been re-engineered to be among the world's quietest and cleanest cars. Renault has been testing devices to cut vibration from its executive cars to make them as quiet as a Rolls-Royce.

The diesel engine is believed to have been engineered to create fewer emissions than current power packs and offer up to 100

miles to the gallon. Perkins, which has nearly 500 engineers trained to test vehicles for noise and vibration as well as exhaust emissions, was due to run checks on the prototype.

A spokesman for the company said: "We're just glad to have it back."

Either the thieves, who unhitched the trailer from its towing vehicle and made off with it and the car in the middle of the night, were

baffled by the secret technology, which Renault declined to talk about last night, or the trailer was of more interest to those with an eye on easy money. Having dumped the Safrane and its secret cargo of information that car-makers the world over would have been delighted to learn about, they are presumably content to be the possessors of a four-wheeled trailer containing all the technology of a handcart.

Solicitors challenge report on standards

Consumer group accuses lawyers of shoddy service

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

SOLICITORS are too often handing out shoddy, inappropriate advice and charging wildly varying fees for the same work, according to a survey of 80 law firms across the country by *Which?*, the Consumers' Association magazine.

The damning report, in which a team of investigators posed as clients, paints a bleak picture of the quality of advice handed out to members of the public who choose a solicitor at random.

The survey prompted a furious response from the Law Society which attacked the magazine's research methods and accused it of a "publicity stunt". Martin Mears, president said: "This could be the saddest example of sound-bite survey yet."

The survey team was in no position to criticise anyone, he added, as the model advice against which they tested solicitors was "wrong in one key

SOLICITORS' CHARGES		
Job	Standard	Prices quoted
Drawing up a lease	£350	£20-£75
Changing your name by deed poll	£100	£10-£30
Changing your name by court order	£100	£10-£30

*Based on a business property

area. After close examination of their research methods, one can be forgiven for believing that this article is simply a publicity opportunity for *Which?* magazine, rather than a serious attempt to look at service given by solicitors to their clients.

"Of all the professions, solicitors offer the most comprehensive package of protection for clients who have suffered as a result of poor advice, and we are continually striving to improve even further the standard of service given to our clients."

Four consumer-related problems were put to solicitors in the survey. The investigators said that, in most cases, solicitors failed to come up

with what the association says is the best advice. Often it would have cost clients needlessly money. In some cases, the legal advice was actually wrong, the association maintains.

In a problem about rising damp, only three out of 20 firms were reported to have given correct advice; in the case of a faulty, newly built driveway, only one did so.

Clients were usually left in the dark on charges, and the final bill varied enormously, with the most expensive quotation being 17 times higher than the cheapest.

Only one firm out of 40 was said to have advised correctly on a driveway problem, and almost half reportedly failed to advise that there were alternatives to legal action. Only one in four was said to have mentioned legal aid, and only two asked if the client had legal expenses insurance.

Helen Parker, editor of *Which?*, said: "Solicitors owe a duty to their clients to give the best advice. Too often, advice is shoddy and consumers can lose out, wasting time and money and even going to court unnecessarily."

The survey, which took a team of researchers several months, breaks new ground in being the first which seeks to evaluate the quality of legal advice. On charges, the team of investigators found only a handful gave any idea of likely cost. One firm charged £88

just for an initial interview and letter, although the average for this was £65. With some problems, such as the rising damp and faulty driveway, half gave free legal advice on the telephone. In some cases, letters confirming the advice followed, and charges for those varied from £9 to £59.

For buying a £75,000 freehold house with no chain, the quotes ranged from £117 to £750 in England and £1,350 in Scotland, which include any commission the solicitors earn from life insurance. *Which?* comments that "it pays to shop around", although reputation and expertise are also factors.

Keith Richards, senior lawyer at the Consumers' Association, said: "Although some solicitors stood out for being prepared to give free advice on the telephone, we were horrified at some of the advice being handed out and the way some solicitors were not prepared to admit they did not know about a problem." He added that most people would go to only one solicitor.



Mears said the survey gave wrong information

How clients were told to take the 'wrong' action

The "clients" took four problems to solicitors (Frances Gibb writes). They were: a defective driveway; a misleading house survey that did not disclose rising damp; a new sofa that turned out to be defective; and a newly bought second-hand car being reclaimed by a hire purchase company.

have been spent on legal action and going to court when there were other options, *Which?* said. The Law Society said yesterday that such advice would have been wrong. As the house was bought before June 1994, the building society ombudsman could not deal with the case, it said.

THE DRIVEWAY

Eighteen months after construction, the brick driveway collected water each time it rained, and weeds were growing through. The client had a guarantee but could not trace the company. The drive cost £3,000 and he had paid a deposit of £75 by credit card. The solicitors should have advised a claim against the credit card company under the Consumer Credit Act 1974. Only one of 20, Richard Buxton of Cambridge, gave the right advice. Several said they did not know the credit card company was liable. One said that, as only £75 was paid, there could be no claim.

THE SOFA

The client with the faulty sofa said it had been bought recently for £950. It had broken and been repaired once, but broke again. The shop refused to do anything. Only four out of 20 solicitors gave the best advice. Three suggested writing a letter to the shop and then claiming in the small-claims court if necessary. Several firms said the goods could be rejected, although *Which?* said that was "highly unlikely". Two advised using a lawyer to take action. The wrong advice would have led to expensive legal action trying to claim a refund.

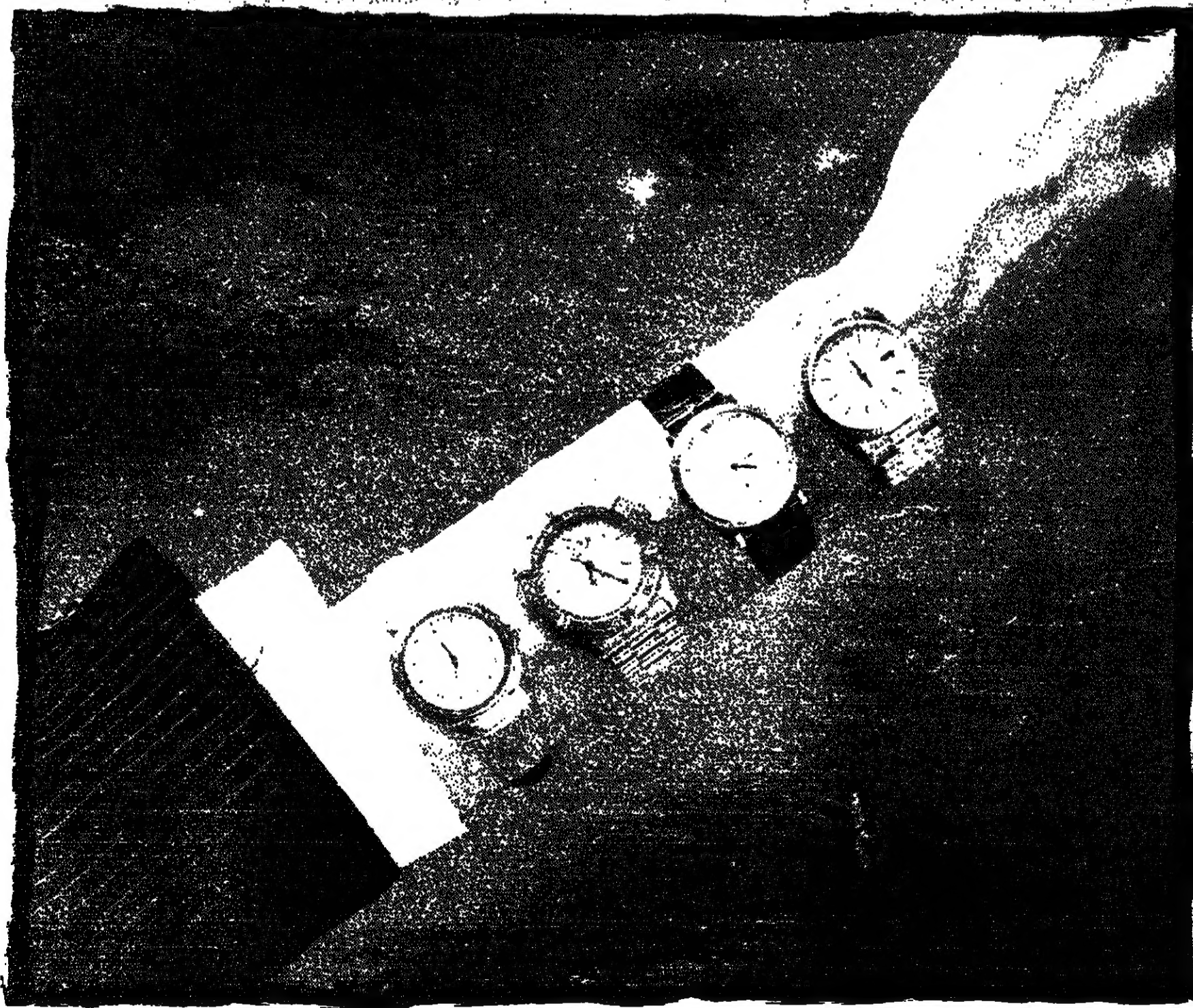
THE SURVEY

The client said she had a survey from two years before, when she bought her house. The surveyor, employed by a building society, did not mention serious damp problems. A more recent survey found damp and wet rot, she told the solicitors, which the second company claimed should have been picked up by the first. Repairs were estimated at £3,000. Only three firms correctly advised that the client could claim the difference between the original valuation and the value of the house with damp. *Which?* said that the solicitors should have mentioned that, to avoid expensive legal action, cheaper alternatives were available, such as arbitration schemes (two solicitors mentioned this) or the building society ombudsman (one solicitor mentioned). Much money might

THE CAR

The client with the second-hand car said she had discovered that the vendor had bought it on hire purchase and had not finished paying. The hire-purchase company was now demanding the car back, she told the solicitors, adding that she had known nothing about the hire-purchase agreement. Six of 20 solicitors wrongly said that the car did not belong to the client. A further two said that it probably did not belong to her. Only seven were correct in saying that the car was legally hers. The other five would not give advice over the telephone. Had she followed the wrong advice, she would have returned the car to the hire-purchase company and then — assuming she discovered her rights — would have faced a legal battle to have it returned.

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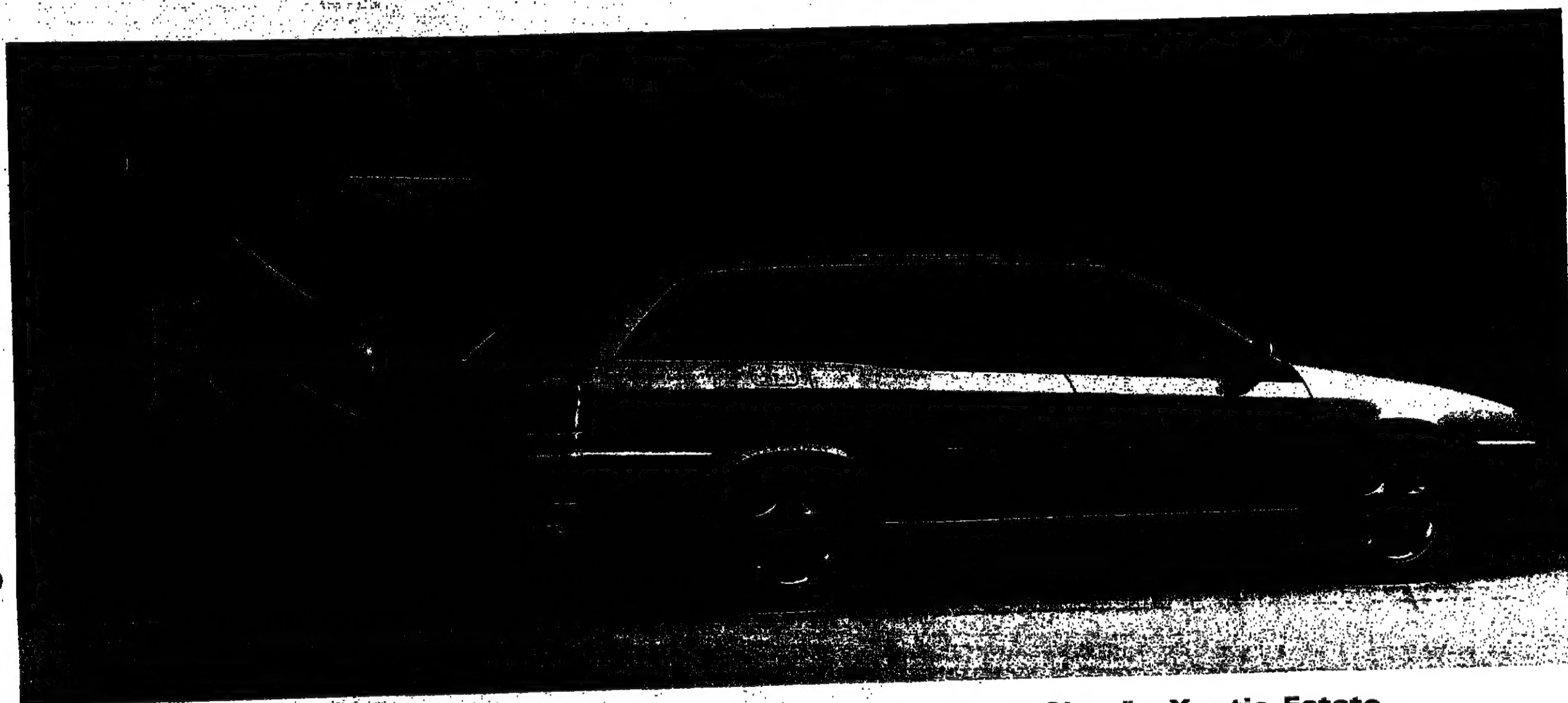
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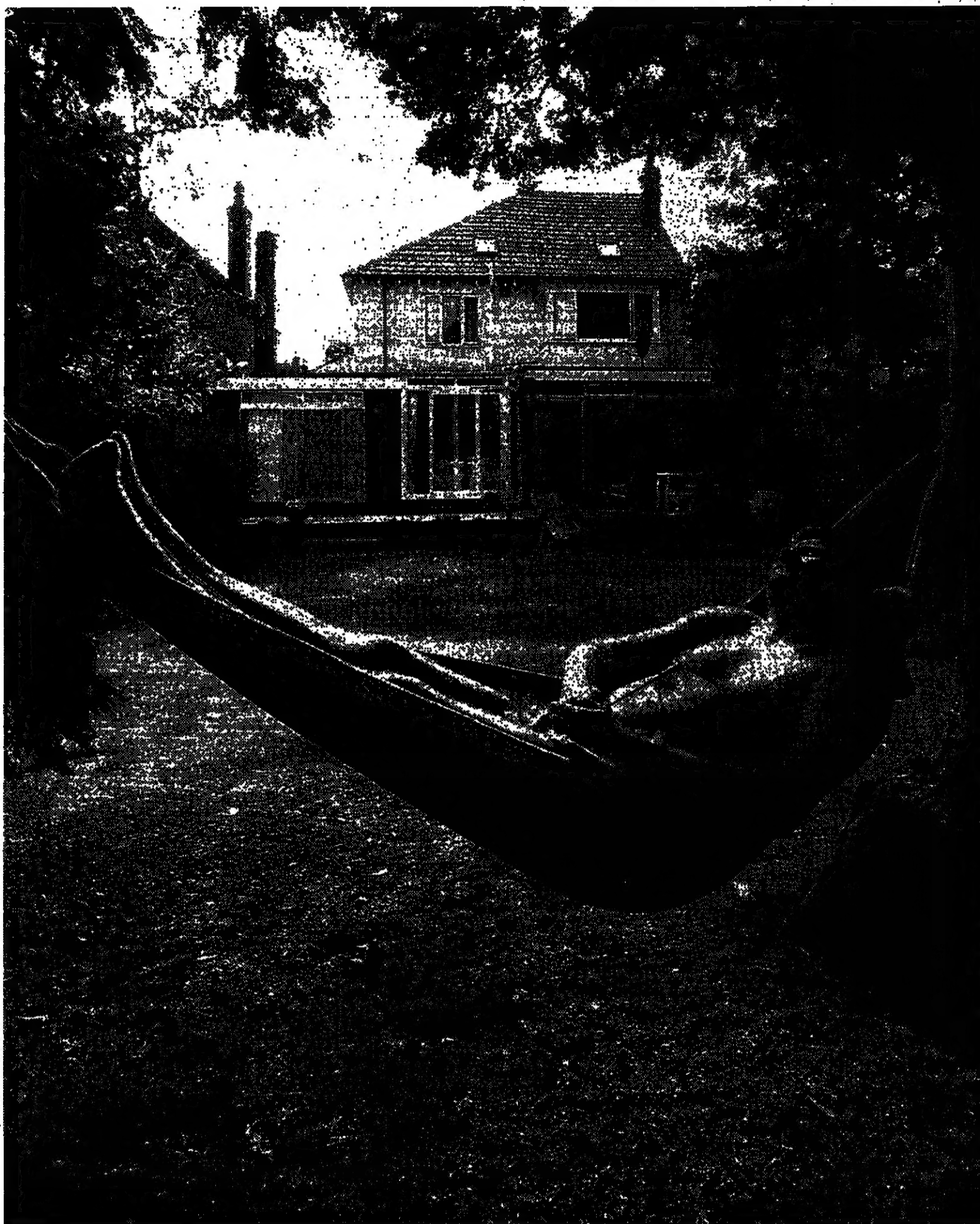
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MPs call for ministers to end 'disgusting trade' in mass-produced pedigree pups

Farms condemned for breeding sick, maladjusted dogs

By MICHAEL HORNSEY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

PUPPY farms have become a serious threat to the mental and physical health of Britain's dog population, according to the National Canine Defence League, whose findings have prompted MPs to call for tighter controls on mass breeding.

The league reports that mass production of pedigree dogs by non-specialist breeders has increased the number of sick and maladjusted dogs being treated by vets.

Roger Gale, Conservative chairman of the all-party Parliamentary group on animal welfare, called on the Government yesterday to end "this disgusting trade". The MP for Thanet North said local authorities must be given the power to enter premises where breeders or dealers are suspected of breaking their licence conditions. All leg-

islation on dogs should come under one government department and be incorporated in one comprehensive Act of Parliament.

"The time has come for us to tackle this problem, to remove once and for all the legislative nonsense relating to dogs and to give the relevant authorities and professional bodies the powers they need to do the job properly," he said.

The number of puppy farms in Britain is not known, but in West Wales, acknowledged to be a centre of the multi-million-pound industry, there are an estimated 1,000 at least.

The league's report says: "Bitches used as breeding machines are often kept in converted barns or pigsties and bred twice a year for up to eight years or until exhaustion. When they can no longer breed, they are sometimes

brutally killed or thrown off farms to be saved by local rescue organisations."

Some of the farms house up to 150 bitches, each of which is capable of producing 12 to 15 young a year. With puppies fetching £100 to £150 each, annual sales income of £180,000 per farm is not uncommon. The animals are supplied to pet shops and kennels through dealers.

The league wants the Breeding of Dogs Act to be strengthened. At present, it says, any farm with two or more breeding bitches can apply for a licence from a local authority.

Bradley Viner, a vet treating small animals who sits on a committee studying the problems caused by puppy farms, said: "The simplest solution is for purchasers to buy only from specialist breeders recommended by the relevant



Puppy farm animals photographed during undercover filming by the National Canine Defence League

breed society and the Kennel Club and to insist on seeing the puppy with its mother. The behaviour and state of health of the mother will usually be a reasonable guide to the condition of her puppies."

Pat Lamcraft, who lives at Shoeburyness, Essex, is a dog

lover who learnt the hard way. Three years ago she bought a 12-week-old West Highland Terrier for £175 from kennels in Essex after seeing an advertisement in her local paper.

"I cannot believe how naive I was," she said. "The kennels said they could not

show me the mother because the puppy had been flown in from a breeder in southern Ireland the previous day. When I said the puppy did not look very lively, they said that was because it had been sedated during the flight."

For the next year, Mrs

Lamcraft said, she and her husband "practically lived at the vet's" as the puppy developed one ailment after another and exhibited increasingly agitated behaviour. The dog was eventually put down after being diagnosed as suffering from a severe liver condition.

Monks in the dock for water extraction

By LIN JENKINS

THE monks at Buckfast Abbey, who are renowned for the potency of their fortified wine, were fined £1,000 yesterday for taking too much water from the River Dart.

A defect in the hydraulic sluice gates used by the abbey, near Buckfastleigh, Devon, went undetected until a 600-yard stretch of the river ran dry. The abbey, which has an annual turnover of more than £10 million from its wine, honey and crafts, has a licence to extract water to produce its own electricity. It raises extra income by selling excess electricity to the National Grid.

Its Buckfast Wine is produced by adding spices and honey to imported French wine. The drink has been accused of contributing to teenage alcoholism in Strathclyde, which accounts for 80 per cent of British sales.

The abbey, which was prosecuted in Teignmouth Magistrates' Court by the National Rivers Authority, admitted breaching its water abstraction licence.

Briton in murder trial 'said killing was self-defence'

By A STAFF REPORTER

A BRITON accused of murdering a South African tourist and dumping his dismembered corpse in Singapore harbour told police that he had killed in self-defence, a court heard yesterday. John Scripps claimed that an unidentified friend later disposed of the body.

Scripps, 35, from Hertford, is said to have told police in Singapore that he attacked Gerard Lowe, a South African tourist, with a hammer after Mr Lowe made homosexual advances in their shared hotel room. He then fled to a friend's hotel and paid the friend to dispose of the body.

Assistant Superintendent Gerald Lim, who led the inquiry into Mr Lowe's death, said in Singapore Supreme Court that Scripps had told police: "I was woken when I felt a hand touching me on my buttocks. When I looked up, I saw Mr Lowe standing over me smiling at me. I freaked out. The pair struggled before Mr Lowe, 32, allegedly came at Scripps with a camping hammer. Mr Lowe dropped the hammer, and Scripps 'hit him several times on the head until he collapsed'."

Scripps told the police: "Some time later on the same

day, my friend returned and told me that there was nothing to worry about as he had already got rid of Lowe's body... by throwing it into a river." Police asked Scripps to identify the friend and he replied: "I cannot tell you because if he knew he would harm my family back in Britain."

Jamil Shane, a hotel security officer, earlier told the court that he saw Scripps walk out of the hotel using both hands to carry a large black suitcase. He returned 15 minutes later without the case.

Scripps told the police that after the incident he flew to Phuket, Thailand, where he again met his friend, before flying back to Singapore where he was arrested. Police witnesses told the court that he was carrying several passports, each with different names but many containing his own photograph.

One passport belonged to Mr Lowe and two others to Sheila Damude and her son Darin, whose dismembered bodies were later found in Phuket. Scripps told the police that he had never met the Damudes and that the same British friend had given him their passports.

The trial continues.

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Patients fear the soaring cost of medical advances will prevent prompt and universal treatment

MS sufferers accuse Government of rationing new drug

By CATHERINE MILTON
SOCIAL SERVICES
CORRESPONDENT

MULTIPLE sclerosis sufferers fear they may be denied a new drug, hailed as the greatest advance since the condition was identified 150 years ago, because of its cost.

Beta-interferon is expected to be licensed in Britain shortly, and could help the 10 per cent of the country's 80,000 MS patients who suffer severe relapses. But the drug costs £10,000 a year for one patient, which could add up to an annual bill of £80 million.

MS sufferers accused the Government of attempting to ration the drug after the Department of Health said yesterday that GPs should refer patients to hospital specialists rather than prescribing it themselves. The patients said lengthy waiting lists for some consultants would mean many of those in need would have to wait for treatment. The drug has been licensed in the United States for two years.

The department insisted there was no question of rationing. The draft guidelines advise hospitals to look sympathetically at patients likely to benefit in the light of "other local priorities".

Jan Deering, who began campaigning for the use of beta-interferon five years ago when his son was diagnosed with MS, said: "For the first

time there is a drug that could help some sufferers of MS, one of the world's cruellest conditions, and the Government seems to be seeking to ration it because of cost."

Ms Deering, 60, a retired civil servant from Grange-overlook, Central Region, is paying about £10,000 a year for the drug for his son, Kenneth, 29.

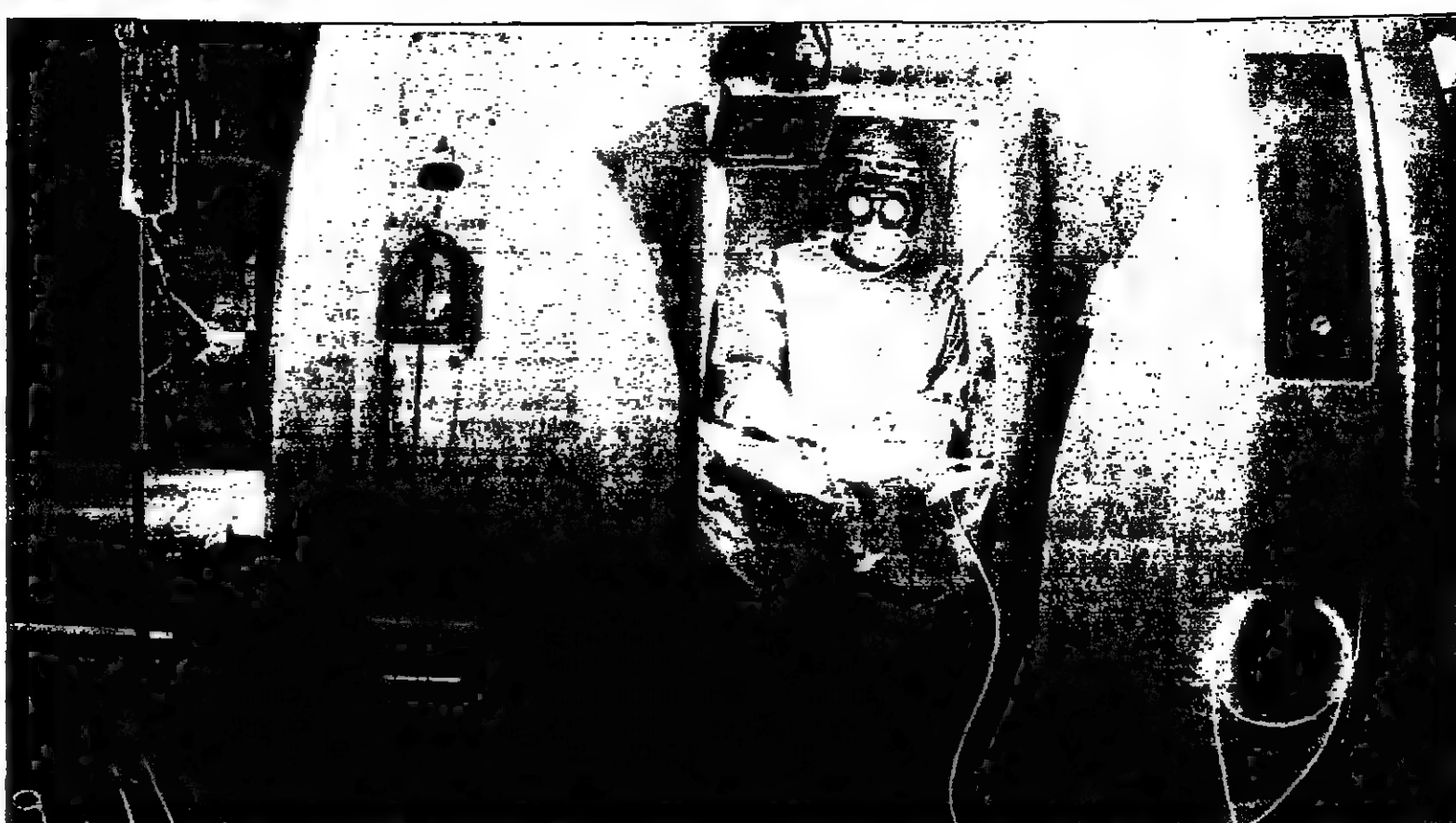
Peter Carrivick, chief executive of the Multiple Sclerosis Society, said: "I don't think the Department of Health is deliberately trying to ration beta-interferon but that might be the effect if they don't do something to cut waiting times for consultant appointments."

He urged sufferers to be level-headed about the drug. "I know it is the first thing to come along for 150 years since the condition was first diagnosed, but others are coming along behind."

Professor McDonald, also president of the Association of British Neurologists, said: "The view of most consultants is that the evidence that beta-interferon makes a difference to patients' lives is not persuasive." He said the drug could help only sufferers with the "relapsing-remitting" form of MS, helping to cut their debilitating relapses by a third.

The drug could cause flu-like symptoms after each jab, and depression. "The diagnosis of MS is quite tricky and one does not want to see patients who would not benefit being put on this treatment," Professor McDonald said.

The European Medicines Evaluation Agency is expected to decide shortly whether to grant a pan-European licence for a beta-interferon drug called Betaseron, manufactured by Schering Health Care. The company declined to comment on the likely price of the drug but in countries where it is already licensed it costs between £8,000 and £11,000. The cost per treatment rises when, as in the case of beta-interferon, the potential market for a drug is relatively small.



The image produced by a magnetic resonance therapy scanner helps to make brain, artery, spine and cancer surgery more precise

Hospital invests £4m in pioneering scanner

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

A REVOLUTIONARY new scanner that enables keyhole surgery to be done with unprecedented accuracy is to go on trial at a London hospital.

The magnetic resonance therapy scanner allows surgeons to operate while a picture of the patient's organs is displayed on a screen. The image can be used to guide a surgeon's keyhole instruments to the exact

position, making brain, artery, spine and cancer surgery more precise and safer.

The surgeon stands inside the powerful magnetic field of the scanner and must use instruments made of ceramics or other non-magnetic materials to prevent them flying out of his hands. The machine, made by General Electric in America, is one of only 15 being made available throughout the world in a trial designed to demonstrate its effectiveness. It has cost St

Mary's Hospital in Paddington, west London, £2 million, and another £2 million will be needed to establish a research facility.

Dr Deborah Cunningham, director of radiology, said: "If you ask, it will show you a picture of tissue a few millimetres ahead of the surgical tool, or to the side, so you can see exactly what you are doing."

Dr Wady Gedroyc, a consultant radiologist at St Mary's, said he believes one of the main applications

would be in "thermal therapy" — using heat or cold to kill tumours without hurting neighbouring tissue. Breast cancers can be destroyed by focusing ultrasound on them, causing them to heat up. Such operations will require no incisions.

Dr Gedroyc said operations on slipped discs, which normally mean eight weeks off work, should be done as day cases or with an overnight stay because they could be completed with the patient sitting up.

Prescription for trouble when cures have a price

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

A RANGE of expensive new drugs has raised the spectre of rationing to control budgets. Among them are Tacrine for Alzheimer's disease, pulsatine for Crohn's disease, the growth hormone somatropin, four AIDS drugs, fluids used by renal dialysis patients and beta-interferon.

Pulsatine costs £7,000 per patient per year, and could in theory benefit three quarters of Britain's 6,000 cystic fibrosis sufferers. There is an even higher price for Ceredase for Gaucher's disease, a rare condition causing lethargy. It costs £50,000 in the first year and £10,000 thereafter.

Drug companies argue that some products are expensive because the market is small, denying them the economies of scale. In other cases, the production method is costly. Ceredase is made from hu-

man placenta, and needs a top-and-e-half of the raw material to make a month's supply for a single patient.

Given a large market, the companies would develop cheaper production methods or synthetic versions. In rare diseases the development costs cannot be justified.

Hospital drug budgets are limited, so consultants are under constant pressure to keep costs down. As a result, drug companies offer them deals, providing drugs at costs far below those of high-street pharmacists. Often patients are started on drugs by hospital, then GPs are expected to prescribe the same drugs at much higher cost.

These include treatments for infertility, growth deficiency, cancer, HIV, immunosuppressive drugs for transplant patients and fluids

needed for home dialysis. GP spending on these has risen sharply, according to a report from the Audit Commission last year. In some cases, GPs and consultants have been drawn into argument about who should pay.

But drugs for comparatively rare conditions are not the real budget-breakers. The Audit Commission reported that more expensive versions of common drugs were a far greater cost. Wider use of generic alternatives would save £50 million on the NHS drug budget of £4 billion.

The ulcer drug ranitidine costs hospitals no more than cimetidine — but it costs the NHS almost twice as much when prescribed by GPs. Many continue to prescribe it, because it reduces the risk of side-effects when taken with other drugs.

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Girl dancer dies after transplant

A teenage ballerina who had a heart transplant 12 days ago died yesterday. Keeley Booth, 15, had been in intensive care since the operation at Harefield Hospital, west London, which followed an appeal for a heart. Keeley, of Sheffield, was born with a condition that meant only half her heart was working.

Murder trial

Ruth Neave, 27, was committed for trial at Northampton Crown Court by magistrates at Peterborough accused of the murder of her son Rikki in November last year.

Holiday isles

Fine weather and a weak pound helped to attract 2.62 million overseas visitors to Britain in July — a record for any single month. They spent an estimated £1.3 billion.

Jagger arts centre

Pupils at Dartford Grammar School in Kent have decided to name an arts centre after Mick Jagger. The Rolling Stone who attended the school from 1954 to 1961.



Meacher tries to scare would-be railway investors

By JAMES LANDALL
POLITICAL REPORTER

LABOUR tried yesterday to frighten off potential investors in the forthcoming rail privatisation by warning them that in government it would not guarantee to maintain subsidies.

Michael Meacher, the Shadow Transport Secretary, also told rail operators that they could face price caps and rising track access charges. Uncertainty remained, however, over how Labour would carry out Tony Blair's pledge to make a privatised rail network "publicly owned and publicly accountable".

Party sources said that it would not necessarily involve full renationalisation. "If there are any investors thinking of buying into our rail system, I have a message for you," Mr Meacher told the party conference in Brighton. "The railways depended on public subsidy last year to the tune of £1.8 billion. There can be no guarantee from any government that such a subsidy will continue indefinitely at that level."

He also said that Labour would prevent franchise holders cutting services to make quick profits. "If you want to buy a pig in a poke in all those circumstances, it's up to you —



but don't come crying to me when it all ends in tears."

The warning came as union leaders backed Mr Blair's call on Tuesday to bring the railways back into public ownership. Jimmy Knapp, leader of the RMT rail union, said: "We need an incoming Labour government to return the entire railway industry to public ownership and accountability, with full integration. We welcome unreservedly Tony Blair's commitment yesterday to bring that about."

Yesterday, however, Mr Blair refused to say whether the party would "renationalise" the railways. "We want to see it publicly owned and publicly accountable," he said in a radio interview. "I am not giving blank cheques in this area or any other area. We will look at the possibility of

taking it back into public ownership."

Labour sources said that it was impossible to say exactly how much would be taken back into public ownership because it was uncertain how much would be privatised by the time of the next election. It might be impossible for a Labour government to buy everything back immediately. "You don't have to say, on the first day of a Labour government, we have got £14 billion and let's use it to buy back shares," one aide said.

However, Mr Meacher later told BBC Radio 4's *World At One* that there would be several options open to a Labour government. "There is the whole question of 51 per cent buy-back, there are golden shares, there are bonds. There are many different options. I am not at this stage going to give away details."

During the debate Mr Meacher promised a "rail renaissance" under a Labour government. Labour would fund a better-integrated public transport network by shifting the transport budget away from motorway building. Improvements would include a high-speed rail link not just from the Channel to London but to the North and Scotland, with connections to the East, West and Wales.

'Indignity of mixed wards must end'

By NICHOLAS WOOD
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MIXED-SEX hospital wards would be abolished by an incoming Labour government to protect the privacy of patients, Margaret Beckett said yesterday.

The Shadow Health Secretary was cheered by delegates as she called on Stephen Dorrell, her Tory counterpart, to "restore dignity to patients" by scrapping arrangements that in many cases required men and women to share wards. She said later that the practice had been forced on hospitals by the reduction in beds. "We find that there is such distress, such hostility, to mixed-sex wards that we are calling on hospitals to phase them out as soon as possible."

Mrs Beckett cited the transfer of clinical support services to private firms as evidence of the Tories' "stealthy privatisation" of the health service, and said the NHS was suffering its most dangerous attack in 50 years. The conference backed plans to undo most of the Tory reforms. The assets of NHS trusts would be renationalised; GP fund-holding would be replaced by GP commissioning in



which GPs would have greater influence over where their patients were treated; and the internal market and gagging clauses in the contracts of NHS staff would be scrapped. But the split between health purchasers and providers would be retained. But the sense of unity

generated by the condemnation of the Conservatives' record was strained by union rumblings over public-sector pay. Rodney Bickerstaffe, associate general secretary of Unison, the 1.3 million-strong public service union, pounced on Tony Blair's warning yesterday that a

Labour government would have to say "no" to its union backers at some times.

Mr Bickerstaffe said NHS staff were "the most shining and polished face to the jewel of the public crown". He told Mr Blair: "We cannot keep grinding them down, exploiting them."

Reduction in block vote wins support

By JILL SHERMAN

DELEGATES gave overwhelming backing yesterday to a move to reduce the union block vote at party conferences to 50 per cent from next year.

The conference also supported new party rules that pave the way for further reductions in the block vote and give the Labour leadership a range of new powers.

From next year the votes of unions and constituency parties will carry equal weight at the policy-making annual conference. At present the split is 70:30 in the unions' favour.

The big trade unions have made clear that they will not tolerate any further reduction in their block vote. But the previous guarantee that the union share of the conference vote will not drop below 50 per cent is absent from the new rulebook.

A vote on the new rules was carried by 93 per cent. Arthur Scargill, also lost his bid to reintroduce the party's commitment to nationalisation in the party's constitution.

Under the new rules, the national executive will have the power to hold special conferences to change policy and to hold compulsory ballots of party members. Left-wingers are worried that the ballots could be used to push through changes without reference to the unions or the party conference.

Kinnock urges Britain to join landmine ban

By JAMES LANDALL, POLITICAL REPORTER

LABOUR MPs and MEPs set up a mock battlefield on Brighton beach yesterday in a campaign to ban the production and export of anti-personnel landmines.

The group, including David Clark, the Shadow Defence Secretary, and Glensy Kinnock MEP, urged the Government to sign up to a United Nations convention banning the trade in landmines, which kill or maim up to 2,000 people a month. The Government bans the sale of some landmines, allows the trade in "smart" mines, which supposedly have the technology to make themselves safe once conflicts are over.

Mr Clark rejected the distinction, saying that many of the "smart" mines did not self-destruct. "We are very concerned about the Government's complacency on this," he said. "Britain should immediately halt the export of anti-personnel landmines of all types."

Mrs Kinnock, who has just returned from seeing the effect of landmines in Mozambique, said it was unacceptable that countries produced, exported, stockpiled and used landmines. About 100 million mines are believed to be scattered around the world.

"There is huge support that this is a form of weapon that should be abolished," she said. "Our own Government is being the least helpful. They are still trying to defend the use of these self-destructing mines."

Earlier this week, David Davis, the Foreign Office Minister, defended the Govern-



Glensy Kinnock on the Brighton "battlefront"

ment's refusal to accept a full ban. "Landmines remain an effective defensive weapon," he said. "Our own armed forces have them and need them. If they had to do without landmines, our forces would be weakened."

He said that it would not be right to deny other responsible countries the right to have landmines. He added that Britain had not exported any for many years. "Our opposition to a total ban reflects the fact that our armed forces need landmines and may need to import them. It is not driven by a desire to export them."

Redwood accuses Blair of policy theft

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN REDWOOD accused Tony Blair yesterday of using his right-wing policies to outflank the Tory party.

The former Cabinet minister claimed that Mr Blair had become the "thieving magpie" of British politics in taking other people's policies and portraying them as his own.

Mr Redwood confirmed the blurring of the Right-Left political divide by adding that he agreed with several of Mr Blair's policies, such as restricting profits made by mo-

nopoly utility companies. He claimed that Labour had poached his ideas for a reduction in the rate of VAT on fuel and the setting up of an information superhighway to all schools.

Launching the first publication from the Conservative 2000 Foundation think-tank, he said: "I think the monopoly utilities have been overcharging and that we need to inject a great deal more competition and the regulators need to be a lot tougher on them."

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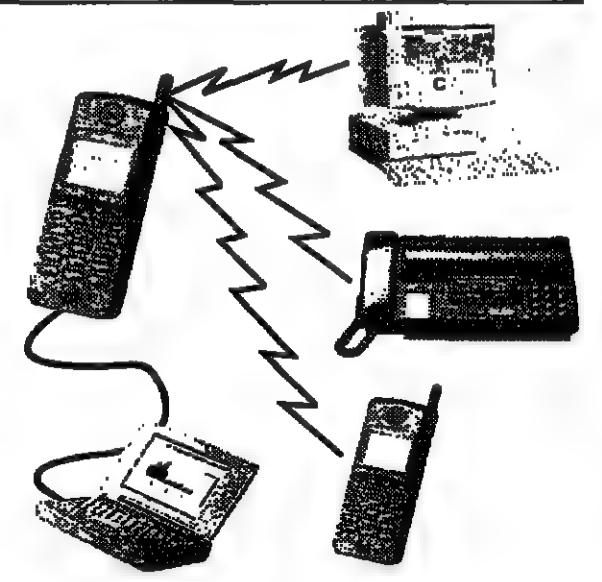
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BUSINESS 25-34

BT's deal with Labour sends clear message



ARTS 35-37

Why the latest Disney leaves Geoff Brown cold



BOOKS 38, 39

Peter Ackroyd on Michael Foot's life of HG Wells

AIRLINES PLAN CHEAP TRIPS TO SOUTH AFRICA
Travel News, p41

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

THURSDAY OCTOBER 5 1995

Germans rule Leeson to be extradited

By Robert Miller

THE trial of Nick Leeson is a step nearer to a German Court ruling that he should be extradited to Singapore to face 11 of the 12 charges laid against him.

Lawyers acting on behalf of Mr Leeson, the trader blamed for the £860 million collapse of Barings, said that they would appeal the decision to the German Federal Constitutional Court, the highest legal authority in the country, within the one-month time limit.

The Frankfurt court yesterday upheld the extradition of Mr Leeson, who is being detained in the city's Höchst prison, on three charges of forgery, two of defrauding Barings Futures (Singapore) and six of defrauding the Singapore International Money

Exchange (Simex). Only one charge, that of falsifying a document, was thrown out on the grounds that it was not punishable under German law.

The court ruling is a blow to Mr Leeson's legal team, headed by Stephen Pollard, of Kingsley Napley, which had hoped to have either the case thrown out altogether or have the charges reduced by at least half. Eberhard Kempf, Mr Leeson's German lawyer who broke the news to the trader in his cell, said: "The reasoning of the German Court appears in various respects to be inconsistent and wrong in law."

Mr Pollard added: "There are clear grounds for appeal against the decision to extradite in respect of at least eight of the remaining charges."

Hans-Hermann Eckert, the Frankfurt public prosecutor, told *The Times*: "I will now send all the papers and documents relating to the case to the Ministry of Justice in Bonn. I think that the decision to appeal the court's decision to the Constitutional Court will probably only prolong the extradition process for a short while. Since no other country has applied for his extradition, I can see no reason to challenge the court's decision."

He continued: "If Great Britain had applied earlier on in the process then, who knows, it might have been a very different situation. I hear that opinion in England is that there are many things involved in this case such as diplomatic niceties and close business links. Our embassy in Singapore has conducted a very thorough review of the standards of law and juris-

prudence in the country and has concluded that Mr Leeson will get a fair trial."

The one slim chance that Mr Leeson could still be brought back to the UK to face possible trial is expected to be closed off today or tomorrow. A private prosecution brought by investors who lost more than £50 million in the Barings collapse is likely to be picked up formally by the Serious Fraud Office before being dropped again on Friday. The investors formed the Perpetual Noteholders Action Group, which last week obtained eight summonses against Mr Leeson on charges of false accounting and obtaining money by deception.

The SFO has already studied the papers and it is understood that James Kellock, the SFO lawyer in charge of the Barings investigation, and George Staple, the director of the SFO, still believe that the action group's case is not as strong as that of the Singapore authorities.

David Hurrell, of SJ Berwin, the solicitor acting for the bondholders' action group, said: "If the SFO takes over the action purely to discontinue it, without good reason, we would argue that it is an abuse of process. The Singapore charges against Mr Leeson are very narrow, whereas our case brought in a UK court means the whole story about the collapse of Barings would have to be told." It is expected that if the SFO goes ahead with its plan to drop the private prosecution the action group will seek a judicial review of the decision.

Flemington, page 27
Risk control, page 30

Over the top to the bottom



Clare Turnbull, of Union Bank of Switzerland's emerging markets sales staff, was among 200 women in the City who abseiled down a nine-storey building in London's Finsbury Square yesterday, caajoed by Royal Marines, to raise an estimated £20,000 for Motivation, a charity that helps to produce low-cost wheelchairs in developing countries

VW to cut Seat output

By Colin Nibbrough

VOLKSWAGEN, Europe's biggest carmaker, has agreed to cut production at Seat, its troubled Spanish subsidiary, by 30 per cent, to meet tough European Commission conditions for state aid.

Karel Van Miert, the Competition Commissioner, said the agreement, which will chop 5-6 per cent off the VW group's European output, would in return provide EU approval for a 46 billion peseta (£234 million) subsidy from the Spanish Government for restructuring. The announcement followed talks in Brussels with Juan Manuel Eguiguren, the Spanish Minister for Industry.

Brussels failed in its attempts to force EU steelmakers to adopt its master plan for shedding surplus capacity, but has become increasingly demanding where state subsidy for restructuring in any industry is concerned, insisting that overcapacity must be removed.

The Spanish Government, which has sought to rescue Seat, has until the end of the month to give its final response to Brussels. A spokesman for VW said that group headquarters was "very satisfied" with the terms offered by Mr Van Miert.

The spokesman pointed out that the capacity cuts were specific to Seat only and were based on the production level achieved in 1993. Since then, big capacity cuts have already been made. Capacity at VW's own plants and at other marque subsidiaries would not be affected.

Formal complaints to Brussels from rival carmakers prompted the commission to launch an investigation in June into the subsidy for Seat, which the Spanish authorities sought to present as for research and development rather than restructuring.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FT-SE 100	3944.1	(+19.9)
Yield	2.95%	
FT-SE All-Share	1749.84	(+8.58)
NASDAQ	18145.08	(+2.05)
Dow Jones	4763.20	(-5.50)
S&P Composite	581.89	(-0.45)

US RATE

Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Long Bond	105 1/8%	(105 1/8%)
Yield	8.46%	(8.46%)

LONDON MONEY

3-month Libor	6 1/4%	(6 1/4%)
6-month Libor	100%	(100%)

STERLING

New York	1.5940	(1.5935)
London	1.5943	(1.5917)
DM	2.2580	(2.2743)
FF	7.8490	(7.8510)
Sfr	1.8228	(1.8331)
Yen	159.42	(161.48)
E index	85.2	(85.2)

US DOLLAR

London	1.4328	(1.4300)
DM	4.9477	(4.9300)
Sfr	1.1506	(1.1506)
Yen	159.70	(161.48)
E index	85.0	(85.1)

Tokyo close Yen 161.12

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Dec)	\$18.90	(\$18.00)
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GOLD

London close	\$382.85	(\$382.35)
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* denotes midday trading price

Talking

Vodafone Britain's biggest mobile phone operator, has entered negotiations on the possible acquisition of Talkland, the country's leading independent service supplier for the industry. Générale des Eaux, the French utility group, has opened negotiations on the sale of the two-thirds stake it owns in Talkland. Page 26

Advising

The Futures and Options Association has set up an operational-risk review panel to advise derivatives users on how to improve controls. Page 30

Deficit cutting urged by IMF

By Javier Buis

THE International Monetary Fund yesterday said the European single currency is unlikely by the 1999 deadline but urged governments not to use the slippage in the Maastricht timetable as an excuse to go soft on cutting deficits.

In its *World Economic Outlook*, presented at its annual meeting in Washington, the IMF included Britain in these strictures, saying it is important for Britain to avoid slippages in its efforts to cut public borrowing. It warned the Government not to indulge in "fiscal backsliding" because of a build-up in hopes of Budget tax cuts.

In general, the IMF's report on Britain was uncontroverted and close to the Treasury's view of developments. The IMF revised growth this year down to 2.7 per cent from the 3.2 per cent it forecast in May. For 1996, the IMF is predicting growth of 2.9 per cent. The Treasury's *Summer Forecast* put this year at 3 per cent and next year at 2.75 per cent.

The IMF praised efforts by central bankers to bring important currency relationships more into line with economic fundamentals, but said the dollar could do with a little strengthening. It said that there was scope to cut interest rates in Germany and France but gave warning against further US rate cuts.

The IMF remained gloomy about Japan, predicting growth this year of only 0.5 per cent. It said that there were still significant risks to Japan's financial sector and said that the authorities should continue to provide the system with ample liquidity to avoid further problems.

Bad debt charges fall as Bank of Scotland soars

By Patricia Tehan, Banking Correspondent

FALLING bad debt provisions enabled Bank of Scotland to unveil a 23 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £261.6 million in the first half of the year to August 31.

Total bad debt charges fell from £18.6 million to £8.5 million. The charge for specific provisions fell 41 per cent to £65.3 million, but the bank confirmed its policy of increasing the general provision to guard against possible bad debts in the future, making a £20.5 million provision.

Sir Bruce Patullo, the bank governor, said banking was a cyclical industry. "A strong general provision as we have helps the bank when the going gets tough. I am by nature a prudent banker that likes to tuck things away."

He said that Bank of Scotland, unlike some of its London-based competitors, also managed to increase profits before provisions — they were 5.6 per cent higher at £339.6 million.

Costs increased 16 per cent to £318.7 million. Sir Bruce said that half the increase

came from recruiting 500 staff to NWS Bank, the bank's finance house, and half from a branch refurbishment programme and new technology.

The bank's total assets increased 15 per cent to £36.8 billion. Profit from the clearing bank, before provisions, was 5 per cent higher at £246.7 million, including a £23.6 million profit on the sale of the bank's share in Halifax Credit Card Ltd and a special dividend of £10.9 million from 3i. Pre-tax profits were up 24 per cent to £183.2 million.

NWS Bank pushed its pre-tax profits up 11 per cent to £53.5 million. British Linen Bank profits rose 7 per cent to £ 8 million. Bank of Wales profits were up from just £300,000 to £12 million. Kellogg Holdings, the factoring company, pushed pre-tax profits up from £1.4 million to £22 million. Countrywide Banking in New Zealand earned pre-tax profits of NZ\$31.3 million against NZ\$19.1 million last time.

Tempus, page 28

Eurotunnel facing £450m loss

NERVOUS trading developed in Eurotunnel shares yesterday ahead of mid-year results, due on Friday. It is no secret that Eurotunnel will suffer a loss but analysts have increased estimates from £350 million to nearer £450 million (Melvyn Marcus writes).

Such estimates are based on the prospectus indication of an operating expenditure of close on £150 million and depreciation costs of more than £100 million. Interest, assuming a debt of £8 billion, is estimated at some £300 million. Taking into account revenues of a little more than £100 million, reflecting the delayed start up, this would suggest a loss of around £450 million.

Eurotunnel's shares shaded 2p to 95p yesterday despite news that Le Shuttle consolidated its position on the Dover-Calais route in September, transporting close on 109,000 vehicles.

The number of cars using Le Shuttle in September was 105,914, down from the 145,861 in the peak month of August. The number of Eurostar train services rose from August's 844 to 862.

Naim Attallah may leave Asprey soon

By Melvyn Marcus, City Editor

SPECULATION is mounting that Naim Attallah, the controversial chief executive of Asprey, the ailing Bond Street jewellers, will shortly bow out.

Mr Attallah, the Palestinian publisher widely criticised over Asprey's acquisitions, announced earlier this year that he planned to retire by the end of 1996. Mr Ian Dahl, former head of Sports Illustrated, an Australian fashion retailer, was appointed heir apparent to Mr Attallah in August but no handover period was specified. John

Shareholders voted against Mr Attallah's re-election on a show of hands, although he received the overwhelming support of proxy votes.

In reply to allegations that he did not spend enough time at his work, Mr Attallah said: "I'm in my office at 7.30 am every day and never take holidays. I put in more hours than anyone in this room." Under his direction Asprey embarked on a big expansion that embraced Garrard and Mappin & Webb, the Crown Jewellers — acquired from Sears for £75 million in 1990. Watches of Switzerland was purchased from Ramers for £23 million two years

later. Les Ambassadeurs, the watch and jewellery chain, was acquired for £10.8 million in 1993 when Asprey also purchased Ronald A. Lee, the antiques specialist. Other businesses bought include Renke Boivin, the Paris jeweller and Tomasz Starwieski, the designer.

Nick Harrington, finance director, recently resigned for personal reasons. Talks are under way to find a successor and news is expected soon. Mr Dahl, who once worked at Marks & Spencer, has said he would bring the Marks & Spencer ethos to Asprey: "The gospel of St Michael is very much about disciplined management."

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A pool of talent

□ SFO avoids a sticky decision □ Still too much grief for bank customers □ Trust investors blinded by science

Leeson delays his Singapore sling

BY THE time Nick Leeson has exhausted every nook and cranny of an overly generous German judicial system, he stands a good chance of having served out as much as half of any eventual sentence in Frankfurt.

Appeals to German courts and thereafter to the European Commission on Human Rights could drag on for another two years, to add to the seven months he has already spent in jail. His time at Changi awaiting trial starts thereafter, assuming the European Court does not have one of its periodic rushes of blood to the head and releases him as a political prisoner.

There have been indications from the Singaporean authorities that they are inclined to be lenient. This has little to do with any innate qualities they sense in Nick Leeson that others have missed. The Singaporeans, whatever their views on gauche Americans who spray paint over other people's cars, are becoming tired of being depicted as a Third World country with a judicial system to match.

That system, the Germans have accepted, is strict but fair. Any trial, under the gaze of the world's media, will be fair. Any punishment, for a man who has virtually pleaded guilty on prime-time television, may not be too strict.

He could go down for 14 years,

but in reality he may not see half of that. There is a weird echo of the case of Lorrain Osman, the fugitive Malaysian banker, wanted for a Hong Kong property fraud, spent the years 1985 to 1992 on remand in Brixton and Penonville, with frequent visits to the High Court in a bid to evade extradition to the colony.

Once finally back in Hong Kong, Osman saw 15 of the 16 charges he faced dropped and received a single year on jail for the last. The Hong Kong authorities based their leniency on the "terrible conditions" they said he had endured in British prisons.

The decision in Frankfurt, although not unexpected, must come as a relief to a Serious Fraud Office faced with the prospect, had extradition to Singapore failed, of seeking to have him tried in London. The SFO's keenness for this course of action can be judged by its apparent desire to take over, in order to bury, the private prosecution that has been brought by aggrieved Barings bondholders.

This unwillingness to become involved is understandable, even

if it offers those bondholders little comfort. First, it is self-evident that the alleged offences took place on the other side of the world. Secondly, even disregarding the horrendous expense of a trial, there is the outside chance, as with Leeson, that he might walk free. It is hard to imagine a prosecuting authority with a record like the SFO's surviving such a disaster.

The scene is now set for lengthy and expensive legal actions, once the SFO has formally dropped the case, brought by those bondholders — a small consolation prize for lawyers deprived of a Leeson show trial.

Calling banks to account

□ SOME splendid news from the Consumers Association for a change — apparently three out of four people have no problem with their banks. This may fly in the face of the evidence, documentary, anecdotal or whatever, and in the face of sheer common sense, for that matter. But here it is in black and white, and from



one of the most respected consumer bodies.

The number of mistakes has fallen since last year, a cause for some celebration at the British Bankers' Association, which welcomed the results of the survey. So that's OK, then.

The notion of a trade body "welcoming" the news that only a quarter of its clients are unhappy is one of those strange manglings of the language, rather like a terrorist body "claiming responsibility" for a particular outrage. One might reasonably expect that the widespread job cuts in retail banking over the past couple of years and increasing reliance on computerisation would bring the rate of complaints down rather faster

than is actually being achieved. The result of this process should be a reduction in human error and slips of the pen in what are, after all, fairly simple transactions.

The BBA's assertion that many "complaints" (their own worded inverted commas, please note) could be avoided if customers reported their misgivings early enough will strike a bitter chord with those who had to struggle for years to make the banks accept the reality of phantom cashed withdrawals. The true picture, as reported by the Which? survey, is that one in three customers has complained over the past year. Two-thirds of them did not get the sort of service they might have expected when they did so.

Predictably, the two biggest banks, Barclays and NatWest, came off worse, which says something about market domination and its effect on customer standards.

The BBA says one solution is for customers to take a greater interest in and control over their financial affairs.

Not everyone wants to watch,

eagle-eyed, over every simple transaction in and out of their account. In fact, that is what most people pay a bank for.

Sphere of influence

□ SOMETHING curious is happening in the murky and little-noted world of split-level investment trusts, and there are 4,000 private investors who can do little about it. Garmore, bidding for part of Sphere Investment Trust, has had to go to the Takeover Panel for its support and a temporary hold on the rival scheme being put together for Sphere by Guinness Flight.

All very technical, no doubt, and of fascination to City insiders alone, but many of those private investors locked into Sphere, which is being wound up this month, were deliberately tempted in some years ago. They have received little guidance now beyond a succession of offer documents written in pure legalese to satisfy the regulators.

Sphere's eventual fate will be settled by Darrover, an invest-

ment trust, which, through a tangle of holdings, speaks for 69 per cent. This is entirely in order, according to the Byzantine rules that govern investment trusts, however odd it might look in a bid battle between a couple of metal-bashers.

Over the next three to four years, most of the present generation of split-level trusts will come to the end of their ordinary lives, at which stage investors will have to decide what to do. What they will need is clear comparators, where alternative proposals are on the table. Might not the relevant authority, the Takeover Panel, the Stock Exchange or whoever, usefully act in advance of events for once and produce some ground rules now?

Tight schedule

□ A GAGGLE of analysts to be shown the delights of Ashford signal box next week, ahead of the privatisation of Railtrack, have just received the official invitation for the visit. It is worked out in intricate, not to say military, detail, including half an hour at Victoria Station and 15-minute walks to and from the signal box. Can Railtrack hope to match such precise detail in its other, scheduled operations — or is the company, in the light of the recent shambles over timetables, trying to make a point?

Blenheim's finance director goes

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

BLENHHEIM, Europe's biggest exhibitions group, yesterday parted company with its finance director.

The company, which is undergoing a wide-ranging shake-up after a years-long expansion, said that Christopher Crowcroft was leaving with immediate effect to return to his family accountancy practice. Stefan Svenby, managing director, said: "We are embarking on new challenges and both parties felt that it was time for a change."

Mr Crowcroft said he was not unhappy to go. He will be replaced by John Hunt, who joins from BZW.

The group is concentrating efforts on reshaping its French and US operations which have proved disappointing in the first half. But Mr Svenby said that second-half results from France were on course to compensate for the first half falling behind expectations.

Blenheim, which cut about 150 jobs in the six months to June 30 as the first phase of restructuring and disposal of non-core assets was completed, closed the year with a forecast for the second half of the year, in which business is traditionally weighted, and for the next two years, which will

see the final stage of restructuring. This followed a radical growth programme in the 1980s.

The company expects more improvement than usual in the second half after a number of exhibitions that pay in the latter part of this year.

Mid-year pre-tax profits fell to £13.1 million, against £19.2 million last year, after the company sustained goodwill write-offs of £1.8 million from the closure of its Japanese operations and £300,000 from the sale of the giftware division to the UK.

Mr Svenby said Blenheim was focusing on organic growth rather than expansion through acquisition.

An increased use of joint venture operations and disposals and altered licensing arrangements in its exhibitions portfolio contributed to the clipping of sales to £92.1 million in the first half from £99.7 million last year. Excluding biennial exhibitions, which distort the trading figures, underlying organic sales rose 7 per cent.

The interim dividend, payable on January 5, has been maintained at 3.5p.

Times, page 28

BA set to challenge lost contract

By COLIN NARBROUGH

DEUTSCHE BA, British Airways' German affiliate, is considering a legal challenge to a German Government decision to award the lucrative Bonn-Berlin "civil servants shuttle" contract to Lufthansa.

The contract, worth up to DM20 million, is for carrying 95,000 civil servants a year as the main administrative functions are switched from the old west German federal capital on the Rhine to the new German capital on the Spree.

Deutsche BA, which is 49 per cent owned by BA and successfully competed for German postal contracts, put in a bid DM2 million below that of Lufthansa, the German national carrier.

BA said that its paying scheduled passenger traffic in September rose 8.9 per cent, but added that capacity rose only 4.9 per cent to give an overall load factor of 79.4 per cent, up 2.9 percentage points from a year ago.

Vodafone in talks on Talkland

VODAFONE, Britain's biggest mobile phone operator, has entered negotiations on the possible acquisition of Talkland, the country's leading independent service supplier for the industry.

Général des Eaux, the French utility group, has begun talks on the sale of the two-thirds stake it owns in Talkland, to Vodafone, which bought a third of the company in April 1994.

A spokesman for the French company said it would remain a big player in France, but the British market was marked by extremely tough competition, and building market share was very costly.

Talkland has about half a million customers. Last year, it made a £24 million operating loss on £21 million turnover.

As an independent service provider, Talkland is not a Vodafone captive, and handles other operators, such as Cellnet and Orange.

Fisons bid revised

THE pharmaceutical group, Rhône-Poulenc Rorer, that launched a £1.7 billion hostile takeover bid for Fisons in August, is expected today to add about 20p to its 240p offer (Eric Rorer writes).

But Stuart Wallis, Fisons chief executive, is unlikely to recommend the improved offer to the company's shareholders. He has suggested many times that Fisons, best known for its asthma treatments and inhaler devices, is worth as much as 400p a

share. The shares closed at 259p, up 2p.

A 260p bid would value Fisons at £1.84 billion, every 5p increase adds £35 million.

RPR, the US subsidiary of Rhône-Poulenc, France's largest drug and chemicals group, has little choice but to raise its bid having received only 0.25 per cent acceptance. It is understood RPR wanted to add more than 20p to its offer, to deliver a "knock-out" blow, but met resistance from Rhône-Poulenc.

This offer notice, which is published on 5 October 1995, is issued in compliance with the requirements of the International Stock Exchange of the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland Limited ("the London Stock Exchange"). It should be read in conjunction with the prospectus dated 4 October 1995 ("the Prospectus") relating to The Fleming Japanese Investment Trust plc ("the Company"), which has been published and alone contains full details of the Company and the Conversion Shares.

A mini prospectus relating to the Placing and Offer for Subscription has also been produced and is available as set out below.

In applying for Conversion Shares in the Company you will be treated as applying on the basis of the information contained in the Prospectus and on the terms and conditions contained therein. Expressions defined in the Prospectus have the same meanings in this notice. Before deciding to apply for Conversion Shares, you should consider carefully whether they are a suitable investment for you. Their value and the income from them can go down as well as up. If you need advice, you should consult your own professional adviser.

The London Stock Exchange has authorised the issue of this document under Section 154(1)(b) of the Financial Services Act 1986 without approving its contents.

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No person receiving a copy of this offer notice and Application Form in any territory other than the United Kingdom may treat the same as constituting an invitation or offer to him nor should he in any event use such Application Form, unless, in the relevant territory, such an invitation or offer could lawfully be made to him or such Application Form could lawfully be used without contravention of any registration or other legal requirements. It is the responsibility of any person outside the United Kingdom wishing to make an application hereunder to satisfy himself as to full observance of the laws of any relevant territory in connection therewith, including obtaining any requisite governmental or other consents, observing any other formalities required to be observed in such territory and paying any issue, transfer or other taxes required to be paid in such territory.

Availability of the mini prospectus and of the Prospectus

Copies of the Prospectus and the mini prospectus, including Application Forms, can be obtained during normal business hours up to and including 26 October 1995 from the following:

Fleming Investment Trust Management Limited,
25 Copthall Avenue,
London EC4R 1BL
Tel: 0171 382 8800

James Capel & Co. Limited,
Thames Exchange,
10 Queen Street Place,
London EC4R 1BL
Tel: 0171 621 0011

Copies of the Prospectus may also be collected during normal business hours from the Company Announcements Office, The London Stock Exchange, Stock Exchange Tower, Capel Court Entrance, off Bartholomew Lane, London EC2 until 6 October 1995.

Application Form

An Application Form in respect of the Offer for Subscription is set out alongside, together with a guide on how to complete it. Completed Application Forms should be returned by post to New Issues Department, Barclays Registrars, PO Box 166, Bourne House, 34 Beckenham Road, Beckenham, Kent BR3 4TH or by hand only to Barclays Registrars, 8 Angel Court, Throgmorton Street, London EC2 or to Robert Fleming & Co. Limited, 25 Copthall Avenue, London EC2, in each case so as to be received by not later than 10.00 a.m. on Thursday, 26 October 1995.

APPLICATION FORM

Important - Before completing this form, you should read the accompanying notes.

All applicants must complete sections 1, 2 and 4.

1. PERSONAL DETAILS (PLEASE USE BLOCK INK AND BLOCK CAPITALS)

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Surname		Postcode	
First Name(s)		County	
Address (if different)		Telephone (Home)	
Telephone (Work)		Telephone (Mobile)	

2. APPLICATIONS TO THE FLEMING JAPANESE INVESTMENT TRUST PLC

Your application must be for a minimum of 2,000 Conversion Shares.

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Do you already have shares in the Company? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If you already have shares, please state the number of shares you own:

If you already have shares, please state the number of shares you own:

3. JOINT APPLICANTS

Name	Name	Name
Surname	Surname	Surname
First Name(s)	First Name(s)	First Name(s)
Address	Address	Address
Postcode	Postcode	Postcode
County	County	County
Telephone (Home)	Telephone (Home)	Telephone (Home)
Telephone (Work)	Telephone (Work)	Telephone (Work)
Telephone (Mobile)	Telephone (Mobile)	Telephone (Mobile)

4. SIGNATURE

Signature

Date

For official use only

Conversion Shares Address

NOTES ON HOW TO COMPLETE THE APPLICATION FORM

1. PERSONAL DETAILS

Fill in (in block capitals) the full name and address of the applicant. If this application is being made jointly with other persons, please read Note 3 before completing Box 1. For company applications, please give the registered name of the company.

2. APPLICATIONS TO THE FLEMING JAPANESE INVESTMENT TRUST PLC

Fill in (in figures) the number of Conversion Shares for which you wish to apply. The application must be for a minimum of 2,000 Conversion Shares. Applications for up to 5,000 Conversion Shares must be in multiples of 500 Conversion Shares and thereafter in multiples of 1,000 Conversion Shares.

Fill in (in figures) the total amount payable at 100p per Conversion Share. Fill in a cheque or bankers' draft for the exact amount shown in Box 2 in your completed Application Form. Your cheque or bankers' draft must be made payable to "Barclays Bank plc" and crossed "at Payee only".

Your payment must relate solely to this application. No receipt will be issued.

Your cheque or bankers' draft must be drawn in sterling on an account at a bank branch in the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man and must bear a United Kingdom bank sort code number in the top right hand corner. If you do not have a cheque account, you can obtain a cheque from your building society or bank branch.

An application may be accompanied by a cheque drawn by someone other than the applicant(s), but any monies returned will be sent by cheque crossed "at Payee only" in favour of the applicant named in Box 1.

Applications with a value of £10,000 or greater which are to be settled by way of third party payment, e.g. bankers' drafts, building society cheques or a cheque drawn by someone other than the applicant, will be subject to the verification of identity requirements which are contained in the Money Laundering Regulations 1993. For UK applicants, this may involve verification of names and addresses (only) through a reputable agency. For non-UK applicants, verification of identity may be sought from your bankers or from another reputable institution or professional adviser in the applicant's country of residence.

If satisfactory evidence of identity has not been obtained within a reasonable time, then the transaction shall not proceed any further and the application monies (without interest) will be returned to the bank account on which the cheque was drawn.

Please ensure that you have sufficient funds in your bank account as cheques may be presented immediately.

3. JOINT APPLICANTS

You may apply jointly with up to three other persons. Boxes 1 and 2 must be completed by one applicant. All other persons who wish to join the application must complete and sign Box 3.

Another person may sign on behalf of any joint applicant if that other person is duly authorised to do so under a power of attorney. The power of attorney (or a copy duly certified by a solicitor) must be enclosed for inspection.

Certificates for the New Ordinary Shares and the New Warrants arising on Conversion of Conversion Shares, cheques and other correspondence will be sent to the address in Box 1.

4. SIGNATURE

The applicant named in Box 1 must date and sign Box 4. Please insert your Fleming Share Plan Account number, if applicable.

The Application Form may be signed by another person on your behalf if that person is duly authorised to do so under a power of attorney. The power of attorney (or a copy duly certified by a solicitor) must be attached for inspection. A company should sign under the hand of a duly authorised official, whose representative capacity must be stated.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR DELIVERY OF COMPLETED APPLICATION FORMS

Completed Application Forms should be sent by post or delivered by hand to New Issues Department, Barclays Registrars, PO Box 166, Bourne House, 34 Beckenham Road, Beckenham, Kent BR3 4TH or delivered by hand only to Barclays Registrars, 8 Angel Court, Throgmorton Street, London EC2 or to Robert Fleming & Co. Limited, 25 Copthall Avenue, London EC2, in each case so as to be received not later than 10.00 a.m. on 26 October 1995. If you post your Application Form, you are recommended to use first class post and to allow at least two days for delivery.

STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

London shrugs off another weak Wall Street opening

SHARE prices on the London stock market shrugged off the ill effects of another sharp opening fall on Wall Street to close near their best of the day.

Steady support for the December series of the financial future, which closed at 3,576, and persistent speculative buying provided a firm underpinning to trading. Despite an opening fall in the Dow Jones average of more than 20 points, the FT-SE 100 index closed just a shade below the high for the day with a rise of 19.9 at 3,544.1. Turnover also grew to 754 million shares.

Institutional investors continued to concentrate on those shares that appear to have been left behind by the market's recent record-breaking run. Their attention yesterday focused on BAT Industries, which responded with a rise of 15p to 544p on turnover of more than eight million shares.



Hunting up: Richard Hunting and Ken Miller, chief executive

Vickers stood out with a jump of 17p to 262p as almost 2.5 million shares were traded. ABN Amro Hoare Govett, the company's own broker, was responsible for this latest flurry of activity after reiterating, at its morning meeting, its view that the shares are undervalued.

Hoare Govett was also responsible for the 15p rise to 415p in the price of Courtaulds after recommending the shares. Almost two million had changed hands by the close of business.

Granada was another firm market, adding 7p to 654p in the wake of Tuesday's news that Gerry Robinson, chief executive, will be taking over as chairman from Alex Bernstein when he retires next March. UBS, the broker, was said to be pushing the shares.

Scottish Power waded back into the market-place, picking up more shares in Manweb. This time it paid 990p for 5.31 million shares, taking its total holding to 28.25 million, or 26.2 per cent. Scottish Power's offer of £10.04 a share has been labelled as mean by Manweb. The closing date for the offer is on Friday.

Those regional electricity companies (Recs) that have still not received a bid on the table continued to be driven higher. East Midlands made all the early running, finishing the session 20p better at 902p, while London added 14p at 911p, Yorkshire 19p at 916p, Seaboard 10p at 933p, and South Wales 7p at 932p. The

million, bolstered by an exceptional profit of £23.6 million relating to the sale of its 50 per cent stake in Halifax Credit. Bad debts during the period fell from £77.9 million to £65.3 million and margins in its lending business also showed much needed improvement.

Hewden-Stuart also dropped 10p to 133p after some cautious comments about current trading. Pre-tax profits in the first six months were up from £16.1 million to £19.7 million.

A fall in sales of women's wear has a dent in first half profits at Austin Reed and is likely to result in a shortfall for the year. Interim pre-tax profits fell £400,000 to £1.4 million and Barry Reed, chairman, says he is cautious about the outcome for the year. The shares ended 3p lighter at 92p.

Blenheim, the exhibitions group, shrugged off a first half setback to finish 15p better at 234p. Pre-tax profits tumbled 30 per cent to £13.1 million. It pegged the dividend at 3.5p.

Shares in Hunting, the aviation, defence and oil company, rose 7p to 219p, cheered by an encouraging set of half-year figures showing pre-tax profits up from £13.5 million to £15 million.

Richard Hunting, chairman, said the aviation division was starting to show signs of recovery helped by an improvement in market conditions and recent restructuring.

GLT-EDGED: Prices fluctuated in narrow limits for much of the day with investors reluctant to open fresh positions ahead of tomorrow's US jobs numbers.

In the futures pit, the December series of the long gilt traded in limits of £106 1/2 to £106 1/4 before settling 1/4 firm at £106 1/4. Trading conditions were thin and by the close just 30,000 contracts had been completed.

In the cash market, Treasury 8 per cent 2013 put on £7 1/2 at 98 1/4, while at the shorter end Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was three ticks better at 102 1/4.

NEW YORK: Concern over low earnings and slower economic growth saw sentiment switch to consumer non-durables on Wall Street. Drugs, tobacco and beverages were favoured. The market remained weak and by mid-day the Dow Jones industrial average was 0.50 points lower at 4,743.20.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):

Dow Jones 4743.20 (+4.50)

S&P Composite 581.89 (+0.45)

Tokyo

Nikkei Average 10140.06 (+2.09)

Hong Kong

Hang Seng 9939.95 (+124.08)

Amsterdam

Euro Index 463.92 (+0.12)

Sydney

ASX 2103.49 (+8.60)

Frankfurt

DAX 2317.76 (+12.74)

Singapore

Straits 2127.72 (+17.38)

Brussels

General 7890.53 (+0.47)

Paris

CAC-40 1803.87 (+3.17)

Zurich

SEA Gen 692.80 (+3.80)

London

FT 30 2627.3 (+19.9)

FT 100 3544.1 (+19.9)

FT All-Share 1749.84 (+8.58)

FT Non Financials 1723.07 (+9.34)

FT Financials 111.74 (+0.17)

FT Govt Secs 93.44 (+0.09)

Barrington 754.30

SEAC Volume 180.71 (+2.49)

US\$ (Domestic) 1.5817 (+0.0012)

US\$ 2.2714 (+0.0023)

Exchange Rate 1.62 (unchanged)

Bank of England official rate (Hans)

EBCU 1.273

Lombard 1.0647

RPI 149.9 Aug (3.6%) Jan 1997-100

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TEMPUS

Scottish knitting puzzles

HAVING built its reputation on thrift and sticking to the knitting, Bank of Scotland is not to be allowed to drift in the all-important ratio of costs to income. At least, that was the message that investors gave to the men on the board in Edinburgh yesterday.

In the circumstances, such a parsimonious view of the world seems a little unfair. Yesterday's revelation that costs for the half year had risen 16 per cent over the first six months in the previous year came as a shock to some, causing the share price to dip. However, Bank of Scotland gave some good reasons for the increase and consequential rise in the cost-income ratio to 50.3 per cent.

Bank of Scotland is investing heavily in NWS bank, its consumer loan business, which has taken on an extra 500 staff while staff branches are being gutted and

converted into open-plan. More important, the results are showing through in a way that clearing banks would envy. At a time when banks are desperate to capture new business, Bank of Scotland increased its loan book by 15 per cent. A dropped stitch or two is of less concern than whether the bank has switched to a different knitting pattern with its takeover of BankWest.

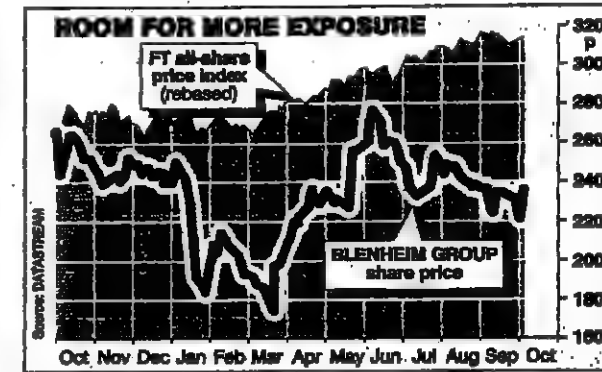
Faced with a difficult home market, the Scots have gone abroad but the choice of Western Australia is curious. The local economy, based on natural resources, is volatile. Its relative proximity to South East Asia may bring long-term benefits, but there are few at present.

The Scots reckon they have found kindred spirits in Perth but the Australians could give them a nasty shock.

Blenheim

BLENHHEIM may be about to be released after several years in the stocks. The company has been forced to pay for a profligate past with some very public hand-wringing combined with a crash diet and the removal of expensive but now unfashionable clothes. In the 1980s, Blenheim's appetite for acquisitions was greater than its ability to digest them, causing investors to cold-shoulder a former favourite.

The exhibition company, which makes a living out of public exposure, drew unwanted attention to its own travails with high-profile boardroom fallings out. However, after 18 months of heavy restructuring, job cuts — including the finance director yesterday — and disposals, Blenheim is starting to deliver results.



Aran Energy

ARAN is a little cheeky, publishing an asset valuation for the company of 106p, almost a third of which comprises exploration assets whose production potential is unproven. Aran argues heatedly that its exploration portfolio is of high quality and that Conemaugh has commercial reserves. But Conemaugh has nowhere near the certainty of Shell.

Aran is correct, however, in insisting that Arco is after its exploration assets. For a company of Arco's size, the Irish company's share of Shell is a drop in the ocean, but the battle raises interesting questions about how to value exploration assets.

Typically, such companies are valued at current estimates of net assets, based on commercial reserves, and the market throws in a bit more for exploration potential, largely based on sentiment. Even using such a rough and

ready approach, however, suggests Arco must pay more. The commercial reserves, including Schiehallion and excluding debt add up to about 66p, using Aran's sums. Arco's bid in itself gives a high "sentiment" value to the exploration assets and if the Americans want Aran, they may have to bid 70p or more.

Aran has done itself few favours with an aggressive valuation. Using the same discount rate for commercial and exploration assets is generous, to say the least.

The exercise would have looked more credible if Aran had valued the commercial assets alone, leaving the market to put a price on exploration. That is what will happen, however much Aran and Arco protest.

Hewden Stuart

AFTER such a profitable ride through the recession, Hewden Stuart is flagging slower growth. Investors accus-

tomed to the Glasgow company's conservatism might be tempted to brush off the comments as Scots grumbling about a chilly draft.

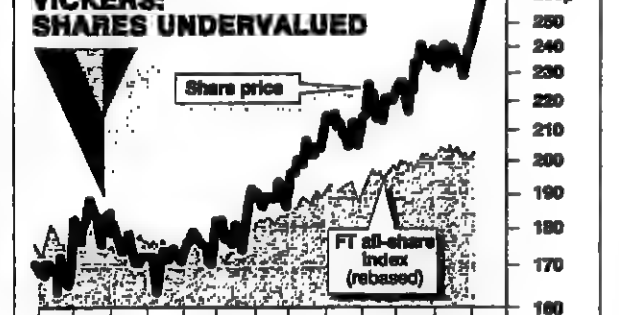
Hewden Stuart's plant hire business made hay while the rest of the construction industry suffered from a drought. Companies that might have invested in cranes preferred to hire, uncertain when their next job might turn up.

To cope with expansion, Hewden invested some £200 million in new equipment. Several months ago Hewden shut the capex tap, a sure sign that the company is serious in its concern about demand. The hints are that cash flow — Hewden generated about £46 million before investment last year — may go into acquisitions rather than new plant.

That would be interesting, but if deals fail to flow, Hewden will be under pressure to give back a bit more to investors.

EDITED BY CARL MORTIMER

VICKERS: SHARES UNDERVALUED



COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

Commodity	Price	Change
Cocoa	1016.00	+0.10
Dec 1016.00		
Nov 1016.00		
Oct 1016.00		
Sept 1016.00		
Aug 1016.00		
July 1016.00		
June 1016.00		
May 1016.00		
April 1016.00		
March 1016.00		
February 1016.00		
January 1016.00		

Commodity	Price	Change
Dec 1016.00		
Nov 1016.00		
Oct 1016.00		
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Commodity	Price	Change
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Commodity	Price	Change
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Commodity	Price	Change
Dec 1016.00		
Nov 1016.00		
Oct 1016.00		
Sept 1016.00		
Aug 1016.00		
July 1016.00		
June 1016.00		
May 101		

Derivatives users given help with risk control

By PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

USERS of derivatives are being encouraged to improve their management controls in an initiative from the Futures and Options Association.

Michael Jenkins, chairman of the association, said most market participants use derivatives, such as futures, options and swaps, to great effect in managing financial risk but "others have still to learn the importance of establishing and maintaining proper policies, procedures and controls governing their use."

The association has set up an operational-risk review

panel to advise derivatives users on improving controls. A panel of experts from leading solicitors, accountants and consultants will provide advice for up to half their normal fees.

Christopher Sharples, the chairman of the Securities and Futures Authority, said that the initiative would do much "to ensure that new and existing users of derivatives can have access to experienced advice when employing these products in the management of financial risk."

Anthony Belchambers, a director of the Futures and Options Association, said the cost of the service would vary according to need, but added that small and medium-sized corporate users of derivative products could enjoy "deep discounts" and pay less than 50 per cent of the cost of professional advice.

He said that normal rates were between £180 and £250 an hour. "We are saying that small and medium-sized corporates needing, say 40 hours work, could pay less than £100 per hour."

THE Bank of England has agreed to pressure banks and agreed to untangle restrictive rules that have made it difficult for banks to manage effectively their balance sheet assets. Although the securitisation of assets such as mortgages has been acceptable to the Bank, banks say it has been "generally hostile" to the idea of the securitisation of revolving credits such as credit card debts and overdrafts.

Rules put in place in 1992 limited the total value of securitised revolving credits that could be removed from the balance sheet of a UK bank to 10 per cent of its capital base. This made it uneconomic for small finance houses to securitise them.

The Bank has published proposals to abolish the limit, and is seeking comments by the end of November.

Grampian ahead on all fronts

GRAMPIAN Holdings, the diversified Scottish industrial group, said an improved trading performance across all divisions had been maintained in the third quarter and was ahead of last year (Martin Barrow writes).

In the six months to June 30, the company lifted pre-tax profits to £4.29 million from £3.59 million on turnover of £70.76 million (£65.84 million). The interim dividend is raised to 1.8p a share (1.7p), payable November 14 from earnings of 4.34p a share (3.68p).

The improvement was achieved despite a fall in profits in the pharmaceuticals division to £2.62 million (£3.04 million), reflecting margin pressure in Australia and lower turnover in Germany. Transport contributed £2.2 million, up from £1.5 million, while sporting goods broke even after losing £183,000 last time.



Bill Thornton, chairman, left, and Ian Bankier want to increase prices by 25 per cent some time after Christmas

Cautious Hewden up 22%

By MARTIN BARROW

HEWDEN STUART, Britain's largest plant-hire company, which has so far largely avoided the worst effects of the recession in the building industry, said current trading was below budget and showing a decline against the same time last year.

The company lifted half-year profits to £19.7 million before tax in the period ending July 31 from £16.16 million previously, but the 22 per cent increase represented a deceleration in the rate of growth

enjoyed in previous years. Turnover advanced to £141.8 million from £128.02 million, helping to lift operating profits to £20.27 million from £16.4 million.

Sandy Findlay, chairman, said that although all divisions showed progress, there were some areas where demand was not sustained at last year's levels. As a result, it had not been possible to increase certain hire rates to a more satisfactory level.

The interim dividend is

increased to 0.75p a share from 0.6875p, payable December 14 from earnings of 5p a share (4.12p). The shares fell 10p to 133p yesterday.

The company has continued investing heavily in plant-hire equipment. Capital expenditure in the first half exceeded £45 million but for the year as a whole is not expected to rise above the total of £66 million in the previous year. The company has invested about £200 million in equipment over the past three years.

Distiller to raise price of whisky

By CHRISTINE DOCKERTY

WHISKY prices face a jump next year as the industry mood strengthens to recover margins, Burn Stewart, the distiller, said yesterday.

Ian Bankier, managing director, said attitudes had shifted among whisky producers in a way that would have been unimaginable several months ago at the height of price competition. He said: "There is a growing consensus that the prices currently being charged are just not sustainable."

Burn Stewart is looking to push through rises of about 25 per cent across its range of mature and volume brands, but will not move until well after the Christmas period.

The warning came as the company reported a dip in pre-tax profits to £3.9 million (£4.1 million) in the year to July 2. The previous year's figures included a £300,000 gain from the sale of shares in another distillery. Sales increased 24 per cent to £50.4 million.

The dividend was held for the full year at 5p, with a final of 3.3p due on November 29.

BAA near Johannesburg deal

FROM HARVEY ELLIOTT IN SUN CITY, SOUTH AFRICA

BAA, the airports group, is in negotiations with the South African Government to develop, manage and possibly take an equity share in Johannesburg International Airport.

Talks are at an advanced stage and if the proposed multimillion-pound deal goes ahead it could give new impetus to BAA's international expansion ambitions. Air travel

to and from South Africa is expanding fast and South African Airways itself is buying 12 new Boeing 747-400 jets to help meet the demand.

The airport, formerly known as the Jan Smuts airport, is in need of expansion and refurbishment.

Michael Myburgh, BAA's chief executive, said: "The airport is totally inadequate.

The single departure lounge is sprawling and the walk to individual gates can be long and confusing.

"When up to four jumbos arrive early in the morning at the same time it is often impossible to cope with the number of passengers. As an airline we must have an efficient airport from which to operate."

ACCOUNTANCY

Perils of electronic revolution

By ROBIN COOKE-HURLE

On April 6, 1996 the tax system is set to change to one of self-assessment. Under this system taxpayers determine their own income tax liability and then send a cheque to the Inland Revenue. By contrast, at present, the Revenue assesses liability on the basis of information provided on the tax return and in supporting documents, and then in effect sends a bill.

Many organisations would have been content with simply introducing what one senior tax practitioner has described as the largest change in UK taxation since the introduction of income tax itself. The Inland Revenue's ambitions, however, extend further, with the intention of introducing simultaneously a voluntary service to allow submission of tax returns electronically. There are signs that this service, known as ELS, may be a step too far, and it is not clear what the implications could be for the whole SA project. At the heart of the problem lies the arcane but vital concept of "disclosure", which is the obligation that every taxpayer has to volunteer all relevant information to the Inland Revenue.

During late 1993 and early 1994, an ELS trial of corporation tax returns involving the Inland Revenue, several firms of accountants and two leading taxation software houses showed that the technology needed could operate successfully.

However, an ELS corporation tax service was never introduced because a way could not be found to transmit electronically the additional documents needed to support the figures in the corporation tax return: they would still need to be sent by post.

In other words, full disclosure could not be made with an electronic submission, and, in those circumstances, ELS was uneconomic for accountants, because it could not completely replace the existing manual processes.

When the time came to look at self-assessment, a great effort was made by the Inland Revenue to design forms that would be comprehensive and self-contained. There remained though a fear within the accountancy profession that completion of the forms, however carefully, would not always meet the requirements of disclosure. In August, it became clear that these fears were justified when the Inland Revenue's second ELS consultative document explicitly referred to supporting documents being sent separately.

The consultative document goes on to argue that simply sending supporting documents may not of itself always meet the requirements of disclosure, which is a view the accountancy profession would dispute. Clearly though, providing supplementary information is more likely to constitute disclosure than not



The Revenue launched self-assessment with a cartoon taxpayer

providing it, so the tendency will be to err on the side of caution, especially as tax practitioners, like all other professionals, have to work in an increasingly litigious climate. It now looks as if ELS for self-assessment may suffer the same fate as it did for corporation tax unless the disclosure requirements are clarified.

The problem is compounded because almost all the economic benefits of ELS accrue to the Inland Revenue, and the costs fall ultimately on the taxpayer. This is not significantly improved by the Revenue's provisional agreement to provide ELS-specific equipment such as modems and some specialist software,

because these concessions simply mitigate costs which can in any event be avoided by not submitting electronically. A far more encouraging response would be for professional fees incurred by taxpayers under SA to become tax allowable. The cost of such a concession would be limited if the Revenue believed its contention that taxpayers would not need to make increased use of professional advisers in an SA regime.

There is now little time left to develop software for April 1997, when the first SA tax returns will be completed. If the economics of ELS cannot be improved and the disclosure issues are not resolved, companies planning to develop ELS software may put it on ice rather than risk investment in systems that customers may neither buy nor use. The prospect of the tax profession having to cope not only with SA, but also any tax changes that a new government may introduce also adds to the pressure to defer ELS. It is not clear if the Revenue, after its well-publicised staffing reductions, could then cope without ELS servicing some of the expected nine million SA returns, or whether the whole SA project would be jeopardised.

The author is managing director of Taxsoft Ltd, a participant in the ELS trial, and represents the Tax Software Suppliers Association on the ELS Business Forum in negotiations with the Inland Revenue.

The temptations of incorporation

Now that the decision has been taken, will the accounting world be turned upside down as a result? Probably not. At least not suddenly. The decision by KPMG to incorporate a chunk of its business as KPMG Audit plc is not so startling.

For a start, the company covers only that part of the existing practice which audits publicly quoted companies and regulated entities such as banks and other financial organisations. It is a sizeable chunk, but not even close to being a dominant section of the whole firm.

The significance of the change and demise of the partnership ethos will be seen more in the long term — a long and slow transformation.

Professional firms have traditionally been partnerships. Since the Partnership Act of 1890 they have sheltered behind the secrecy and privacy of the privileges that the law gave them. The downside was that liability was not limited, though that was not an issue until recently. Control is the real issue.

Until the 1970s, partnerships were limited to 20 members. The entire partnerships of the largest firms could meet around a table on a daily basis to discuss their business. Then, gradually, they started to break down.

An organisation like KPMG has 600 partners and controlling them is difficult. The feeling of ownership among partners may be strong, but the argument has been that the partnership ethos made up for this, giving cohesion and a shared purpose that rarely exists on a corporate stage. Once partnerships were like Lloyd's, more or less a guarantee of riches. But then along came litigation.

Now, the negligence writs come crashing through the solid oak doors of the partners' dining room. Some are justified and require a payout, but no one knows if and when something disastrous, which could wipe out the assets of all the partners, is waiting around the corner.

This is a major motivation pushing firms towards incorporation. KPMG's senior partner, Colin Sharman, tends to express the dilemma in the form of a question: "Why should a tax partner in Aberdeen be put on the line for the actions of a partner in Truro?" Sharman would say that is unacceptable.

The knowledge that somewhere in the building there exists a set of working papers which could some day take your house away

from you is unsettling. And the best and the brightest want careers in which their skills reap rewards which cannot be taken away because someone else mucks things up.

Incorporation will bring benefits. Colin Sharman's personal preference for submitting to the National Audit Office, would change the way in which that organisation which audits the public sector, is seen. And it could open the door to a change of view on who audits whom and why.

The publication of full figures for the whole firm, while they may be bedeviled about with quibbles and caveats, will transform the way they behave.

It will also add a new twist to the continuing saga of boardroom pay. One of the reasons why incorporation is feasible now is that earnings at the top of the corporate world can now be compared with the remuneration of senior partners.

Ten to 15 years ago this was not so. Then, people in the professions were so far ahead of their clients that revealing figures would have been highly embarrassing. Now they are not so out of kilter and the justifications for the levels of pay will be easier.

KPMG is already prepared. The executive remuneration section of a partner's package is already benchmarked against pay in the outside world by Heidrick and Struggles, consultants. Observers assume Sharman to have a total package of around £1 million and the top 30 partners to be on £500,000 each.

The eventual appointment of non-executive directors could also transform the controversy about audit.

Non-executives on an audit firm's board could command independence. At present, when firms say that they have acted independently and robustly and that there was no problem of a conflict of interests, the profession's critics tend to adopt the attitude, "Well they would say that, wouldn't they?" Powerful non-executives could act as a counterweight, building greater confidence in an auditor's decisions.

In the end, the issue is that of control. Ownership of the firm, the company, will remain with the partners as shareholders, but longer-term career prospects for recruits and access to more short-term solutions will be enhanced by switching to a corporate model.

Incorporation has more to do with the frustrations of running a sprawling modern partnership than any of the other rather more cerebral arguments.



ROBERT BRUCE



Bhattacharya: first novel

Words of pure fiction

THE last time Keron Bhattacharya made an appearance on this page, he was writing about the inequalities of creative accounting and fictional figures. Now he has focused on fictional figures of a different sort by writing his first novel.

The *Pearls of Coromandel*, say his publishers, Robert Hale, "is a beautifully crafted novel of love, requited and trust cynically confounded set against the sensually vivid

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

background of the Indian sub-continent." It all makes a change from thousands of words about off-balance-sheet financing.

Speedy stuff

THE brave new world of incorporation has brought a promise from the KPMG camp that we will see a set of accounts based on their year ending on September 30 in the early weeks of next year. But

this is not terribly quick. Arthur Andersen had their worldwide figures, based on a year ending on August 31, into the hands of their partners by September 19. Presumably the new corporate ethos is slowing everything down.

True, but old

THE new history of Price Waterhouse, *True and Fair* by Edgar Jones, which is to be published tomorrow, reveals

startling figures of profit. This is, of course, the first time that a firm has revealed profits rather than turnover. And it is all very much in keeping with these feverish days of speculation over incorporation.

Unfortunately the tables that appear at the back of the book are not as revealing as they might be. They cease at the year 1975.

ROBERT BRUCE

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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[illegible]

As Britain's engineers prepare for their annual show next week, **Graham Clayton** introduces a special report on the manufacturing industry

Britain regains an edge

In the past five years, Britain's manufacturing industry has been through a rough time. The experience has been like an old industrial process — tempering metal.

In the first two years of this decade, the going got hot as the forces of recession tightened and output plummeted. In the next two years there was a cooling process in which output got neither worse nor very much better. If this tempering process has worked, manufacturing industry should now have a harder edge. Within that broad picture, the various sectors have had widely differing experiences — as the designers, engineers and managers who will meet in Birmingham next week at Manufacturing Week '95, the industry's main show, are well aware.

One company which knows about the tempering process is GKN, which began manufacturing iron in 1759. It has now become a global engineering

manufacturer employing about 35,000 people.

The largest part of its business is making a variety of vehicle components. Unfortunately for GKN, vehicle manufacturing suffered badly in the recession. And as far as the company's UK operations were concerned this meant 4,000 redundancies, many in the Midlands.

A significant factor which helped GKN, however, was demand from Japanese car-makers such as Honda, Nissan and Toyota which have set up in Britain. This, says GKN's chairman, Sir David Lees, has had important results. "The British engineering industry as a whole has benefited from the Japanese disciplines and pressures. Quality is up, cost is down."

This year has brought clear signs of improvement and, to maintain this, says Sir David, three things are needed. By far the most important is economic stability; second comes inward investment and finally education and training.

Alec Daly, Deputy Director General of the CBI, says companies generally responded to the recession by cutting costs and workers. "They are realising that this business of continuous improvement means what it says. There will have to be a culture in British industry of getting more and more efficient."

While output fell in the automotive industry, areas such as electronics and computers managed an increase. These, of course, are younger and more flexible industries well used to the pressures of rapid change generated by constantly evolving technology.

It is less easy to determine the recession's effects on the computer industry because at least three other factors have been involved. First, there is overcapacity; secondly, putting more and more features into a microchip has meant less production-line work. Thirdly, work continues

to go overseas, where labour costs are lower.

Ninian Eadie, group executive director at ICL, says that although personal-computer production has increased at 15 per cent or more a year for the past five years, the quantity of work involved has been falling. This is where flexibility and quick thinking have come in, and old ideas, such as not talking to competitors, have been abandoned.

"We set out in our UK manufacturing operation to turn our in-house manufacturing plant into a contract electronics manufacturing plant. We have moved from the position where all the work was for ICL, to a position where now less than half the work is for ICL, and in two years' time we aim to be in a position where 80 per cent of the work is not for ICL."

By that strategy we have managed in our manufacturing plants at Kidsgrove and Ashton to get enough external work that we have not had to downsize those plants."

At the CBI, Mr Daly emphasises the value of inward investment and points out that Britain has a natural advantage: the use of English, the world's business language. "This is one reason, among many, why we attract a far higher proportion of inward investment. There have been 434 inward investment projects in the last year and that has generated something like 37,000 new jobs. That says: 'Look, there is a lot right with us'."

There is general agreement that Britain's manufacturing industry now has a harder edge to it. However, it does not mean that all the suffering is over. "Overall, the IT industry bears an awful resemblance to the airline industry," Mr Eadie says.

"If you add up all the profits across the industry it is not clear that it has made any money for the last five years. It is intensely competitive, moving very fast, still undergoing price and margin erosion and overdue for a shakeout."



Yes, but can it recycle itself?

The rule is: you made it, now help to rid us of it, says Nick Nuttall

Manufacturing industry is coming under increasing pressure to tackle environmental issues which could spell the difference between blossoming in world markets or going under. Many companies have been forced by increasingly tight national and European legislation to reduce air, river and land pollution, but new pressures are emerging, mirroring developments in other business realms.

According to Loughborough University's Professor David Williams, a fellow of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, recycling of electrical goods has become one of the hottest topics driven by United States and European Commission concerns. Equipment such as telephones, personal computers, and television sets were once a small part of society's waste-stream. But as prices fall and demand soars there is growing concern over what to do with the welter of materials inside these devices.

The European Commission estimates that there are now around six million tonnes a year of end-of-life electronics equipment in Europe. Professor Williams says that some companies are recycling silicon chips from computers for use in games, and there is some scope for selling on some products to Eastern Europe or the developing world. But he says that the turnover in new technology is so fast that such markets are unlikely to be able to soak up the volume of waste goods.

In America there is also pressure mounting for lead and tin-based solder to be replaced because of the health hazards when goods are scrapped.

Some manufacturing companies, such as the personal-computer companies in Scotland's "silicon glen", are now trying to redesign goods to make them easier to recycle. Professor Williams says that while this is technically feasible, some research indicates that consumers are not prepared to pay the cost of these green improvements.

But Claire Craig, head of environment at the Confederation of British Industry, believes that "producer responsibility" is becoming unstoppable. "There is a growing sense that, whether it be cars, batteries or electronics, you will have to think through the environmental impact even when the product is out of your control. You cannot just manufacture, sell it and forget."

The packaging used in all

goods is now subject to a special EC directive, and ways for recovering it are being discussed between Government and industry. The landfill tax, announced by the Chancellor in the last budget, will increase the pressure to manufacture recyclable goods by increasing the cost of disposing of goods in holes in the ground.

Ms Craig also believes that, to keep customers and develop new markets, companies will have to subject themselves to independent scrutiny. Two schemes are now available which bring in verifiers to check a manufacturing company's green performance: a British Standard 7750 and a new European Commission-inspired green audit scheme called EMAS.

On the October 9, the Environment Secretary, John Gummer, will present awards to the first five sites in Britain to win EMAS registration. These include Akzo Nobel, the chemical company, in Gillingham; Ciba Clayton, the dye and chemical manufacturer in Manchester; and Design to Distribution, which makes printed circuit boards in Kidsgrove.

The companies recognise the public relations benefits of these stamps of approval but have also saved money and helped to prioritise pollution cuts.

Ciba Clayton has, through the scheme, helped to pinpoint its biggest emissions of polluting ammonia and nitrogen.

It plans to tackle these first, so it can stay within its discharge limits set by government regulators, rather than tackle all the emissions at once.

Whether smaller manufacturing firms will be able to afford such green audit schemes remains to be seen. But Ms Craig believes that banks and other lenders will also add to the pressure on manufacturing companies to get these green registrations.

Pointing to a quality stamp of approval might help to reduce the media and community damage after an accident, spill or illegal discharge. Peter Pugh, of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, believes that Britain should not move unilaterally, and that Europe should be cautious in the face of an increasingly competitive world.

"There is no point in the foundries in the West Midlands being the cleanest, only to discover that Morocco has dirty foundries which are producing castings at half the price," he says.

'You cannot just manufacture your product, sell it and then forget it'

Smelling a winner

THE Aromascanner — said to be the first machine capable of producing an accurate digital fingerprint of a smell — is among the shortlists for the Manufacturing Industry Awards. To be presented at Manufacturing Week '95 next week, Britain's largest manufacturing event opens at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, next Tuesday (free tickets are available on 0181-984 7733) for three days. The exhibition attracts engineers and technical managers across all industry sectors, including aerospace, construction, energy, food, metals and pharmaceuticals. More than 500 companies will be exhibiting.

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Scotch dist export gl

Yes, but can it recycle itself?

The rule is: you made it, now help to rid us of it, says Nick Nuttall

Manufacturing industry is coming under increasing pressure to tackle environmental issues which could spell the difference between blossoming in world markets or going under.

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Straight from computer to customer

John Stansell on a technique that gives instant prototypes

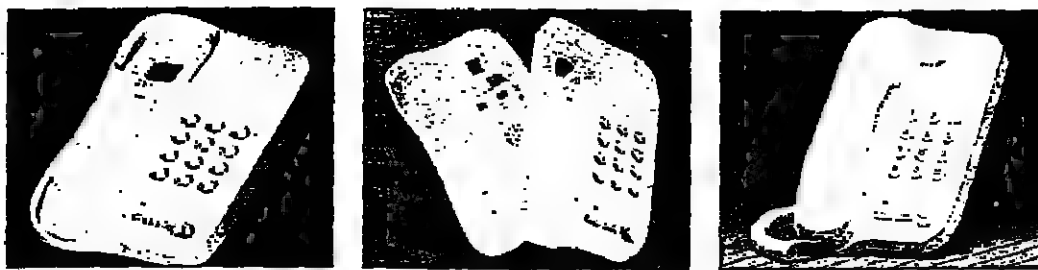
A NOVEL technology that is sweeping through the once moribund world of manufacturing is revitalising companies from the massive to the tiny, saving costs and delivering new jobs. It is called Rapid Prototyping and Tooling (RP&T), and allows companies to create an exact facsimile of a new product directly from computer design data, without the costs and production times normally associated with prototypes.

Conceived ten years ago by the California-based company 3-D Systems, the term rapid prototyping is actually something of a misnomer. A better description of the technology is rapid modelling or the rather more formal "Free Form Manufacturing" (FFM). In essence RP&T machines can create, in less than 30 per cent of the time a human would take, a precise model of a three-dimensional object, whose external and internal dimensions, fixing points, shapes, features, apertures and colours have been created on a computer by a designer.

Even more important is that the shapes thus created can be directly employed to make tools so that actual products in the chosen material (metals, alloys or plastics) can be made faster and cheaper than by conventional methods.

But there is another advantage — the ability to minimise the risk that new products will be ready when they are needed. Tim Plunkett, of Formation Engineering Services, describes how the rapid prototyping of a new cellular telephone cost his client £6,000 but saved it in the region of £750,000 by making sure the product was right and was on sale in time to beat the competition.

There are five main commercial RP&T systems, and many more waiting in the wings, says David Wimpenny, manager of the group at Warwick University's Advanced Technology Centre which re-



How to make a phone, from computer assisted design to polyurethane model to finished article

searches and applies the process to manufacturing projects. The leader, both in its level of development and market share, is 3D Systems' stereolithography apparatus, or SLA. In this, the computer-aided design information is used to drive an automated machine in which a laser progressively solidi-

fies layers of resin within a tank, to create the desired shape. There is virtually no waste, and three of the other main systems are based on this concept.

The other key technology is Laminated Object Manufacture (LOM) from Helix of California. In this process, paper sheets

impregnated with resin are moved across a heated table, so that they bond together into a multilayer solid, and then a laser is used to "machine" away the unwanted material. Other key systems are Fused Deposition Modelling (FDM) from Stratays of Minnesota, Selective Laser Sintering (SLS)

from Texas-based DTM Corporation, and SLA and SLS derived systems from EOS of Germany.

These models are used in a number of different ways. Some are "dressed", polished or painted to look like the real thing. Some are used to make moulds from which metallic parts or plastic components can be created.

RP&T systems often costing upwards of £250,000, so only large firms such as Rover and IBM normally own their systems. Smaller firms can use "service bureaux" such as Formation, Amsys, ARK, Umak and IMI Rapid Prototyping, or university-based commercial units.

Mr Wimpenny says that the rate at which British firms are adopting RP&T is accelerating fast, with about 100 already committed and many more monitoring its potential usefulness.

● Taking its place alongside the rapid prototyping section at Manufacturing Week 95 at Birmingham next week will be the Robot Village. According to the British Robotics Association, there are now nearly 700,000 industrial robots in use in industry across the world today. The dominant user is Japan, with about 350,000; America has nearly 30,000, and the UK is a growing user with about 10,000. The main motive for any company using industrial robots is to boost productivity, says Bob Lloyd, chairman of the BBA, but there are important associated benefits in flexibility, consistency of output and reliability.

"Europe has gone mad on robots" over the past two years, says Mr Lloyd, effectively doubling the rate it is installing new machines. In Britain, the message is still being understood more slowly than in other countries, but the development of new market sectors such as food packaging and handling is beginning to turn the tide.

Scotch dispels export gloom

Exports have been the backbone of British manufacturing industry for the past two years, with engineering firms selling more of their goods to foreign markets than they have been able to sell at home. Industrial leaders see this as a triumph for British quality and design excellence.

The question that casts the first hint of gloom over an impressive success is whether, as recent surveys and forecasts could suggest, the export-led boom has come to an end. The CBI reported this month that demand for British exports was at its weakest level for more than a year, and data published this week by the Central Statistical Office showed the trade gap with the rest of the world soaring to the highest level for almost three years — £1.06 billion in July, up from £868 million in June.

Critics of the Government's efforts to improve the balance of trade between the fact that the deficit should reach £2.9 billion in the three months to July, when circumstances should favour exporters. The CBI trends inquiry found that only 25 per cent of manufacturers thought their order books were above normal in September, while 23 per cent thought they had fallen.

Nonetheless, manufacturers still held a general confidence that output would continue to expand over the next four months.

Figures for manufacturing output in August are to be released tomorrow, and are expected to bounce back from July's surprising 0.4 per cent drop, growing by 0.4 per cent. Total industrial production, which rose by 0.3 per cent in July, is expected to have in-

Whisky sales abroad provide much-needed cheer, says Ronald Faux

creased by the same amount in August.

Sudhir Jumanekar, the CBI's associate director of economic analysis, counsels caution before reaching too many gloomy conclusions. It was necessary, he says, to await next month's industrial trends before any clear indication emerged to suggest that manufacturers were meeting demand "from the shelf" rather than from maintained levels of production.

One of the more hopeful indicators to emerge from the British economy came in the record exports achieved by Scotch whisky. Shipments to the EU rose by 5 per cent to 40.8 million litres of pure alcohol, and to other regions by 6 per cent to 69.8 million litres. Markets in the developing world, including Latin America and the Far East, accounted for much of the growth.

More generally, analysts remain sanguine about the prospects for British exporters. The CBI pointed out that any levelling off in export growth had been matched by slower import growth. One benefit of the 1992 depression and departure from the ERM had been to allow British companies to capitalise on a favourable trading position without trig-

gering inflation. Many UK companies continue to report export success by serving the expanding Far Eastern markets. David Botterill, chief executive of the Birmingham Engineering Employers' Federation, insisted that exports were certainly not "falling off a cliff". The latest movements were merely the usual ebb and flow of the market.

UK engineering exports grew by 20 per cent last year, double the general UK export growth, although UK performance still lagged behind a significant number of competitors. Around two-fifths of UK manufacturing exports are produced by foreign-owned companies and, largely as a result of foreign investment, the UK runs a trade surplus in computers and telecommunications.

Rolls Royce, in the top ten of British exporters, now sends three-quarters of its annual £3.2 billion sales of aerospace and industrial power plants abroad. The Trent aero engine, the largest Rolls Royce unit, has been adopted as a 50mw power generator, widening the company's product range. The export thrust aims to give Rolls Royce one third of the world market for commercial engines by the turn of the century. Rolls Royce faces stern competition, however, from America and France, which both benefit, according to the British company, from state-sponsored research programmes.

In an attempt to promote an export ethos among companies that could sell their goods abroad but choose not to, the Government is increasing the funding available to the Business Link network of advice centres for export promotion.



Rebecca Richardson (above), a production shift manager at Gillette's factory in Isleworth, west London, has been helping to oversee the company's change to a quality audit system. Her shift of 45 operators and mechanics has been learning to monitor the quality of razors they make each year — "all part of a drive to involve the employees in new technology and business skills", she says.

Quality comes at a price

Tony Dawe on the problems of attaining the award standard

One of the biggest and most controversial growth areas in manufacturing at present is the obtaining of quality standards. More than 44,000 British companies, 15,000 more than a year ago, have earned the seal of approval, which was formally known as BS5750 and now bears the international code, ISO 9000.

Awarded in recognition of consistent quality management procedures, the standard should ensure that errors do not occur during the manufacturing process, rather than relying on checks for faults at the end of it.

But the standard continues to attract criticism from small businesses which complain that it is too costly and cumbersome. Management consultants also argue that many larger companies rely too heavily on meeting standards rather than constantly improving the design and quality of their products and services.

The problem with the standard, according to the Forum of Private Business, which represents 23,000 small businesses, is that it was created for large companies but is

increasingly being applied to small enterprises, where it is "the wrong tool".

"As a result," says Stan Mendham, the forum's chief executive, "the formality of the management control procedures imposed by ISO 9000 clashes with the culture and informality of the personally-managed small firm and does not necessarily improve it."

One company which applied for the standard but pulled out after spending £2,000 is B&Z Metalcraft, of Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire, which makes sheet metal parts for supermarket checkouts and wheelchairs. Neville Brown, a partner, discovered that following the required procedures would slow down production and require an extra full-time worker for monitoring.

Garry Sutton, head of research and development at Peter Chadwick, the management consultancy, says: "Quality assurance is essential in any organisation but satisfying standards must not become the 'be all and end all'. The standard measures what you are doing; it has nothing to do with how innovative your procedures are."

Shop around for the money

Nothing comes on a plate. Manufacturers should have learnt that lesson during the recession, yet many companies fail to look around for alternative sources of finance and government grants can go begging.

Ralph Holland, managing director of IAC Plastics at Burnley, Lancashire, prefers like many businessmen to stick to the form of finance he is most comfortable with, in his case hire purchase provided through a bank. But he is not passive.

He says: "We shop around to get the best interest rates. In the past 17 years we have used four different finance houses."

For a small company such as IAC, a maker of precision plastic components that em-

Seek grants, switch banks and try factoring, says Rodney Hobson

ploys 23 people and has just hit annual turnover of £1 million, obtaining better borrowing terms is well worth the effort.

Like many manufacturers, it must splash out on the latest, expensive machinery. It has also updated its computer software with new design and management systems.

Mr Holland has been prepared to switch banks, ending a 17-year relationship with Royal Bank of Scotland by taking the account to Yorkshire Bank last year because it offered better terms.

Borrowing from the bank is still the most popular form of

raising finance. Hire purchase and asset leasing comes a poor second, even in manufacturing where these forms of financing are generally more suitable than in service industries.

Factoring and invoice discounting, although growing at more than 20 per cent a year, are still often treated with suspicion.

David Kilburn, marketing manager at Lombard NatWest, says: "Manufacturing companies have got all the expenses such as stock, machinery and buildings and they have to wait for payment. As a result, as soon as they expand, their needs tend to outstrip the finance that the high street bank is able to provide."

Mr Kilburn says the factoring sector's message is gradually coming across, though. He estimates that nearly half of the £14 billion that factors and invoice discounters provided in the first half of this year went to manufacturing. That means that nearly 5,000 manufacturing companies

now use this form of finance.

Venture capital providers have also met resistance, with business owners reluctant to concede a stake and a seat on the board to outsiders. The British Venture Capital Association reckons about a quarter of the £2 billion that its members invested last year went into the industrial sector. Manufacturers often miss out on grants that are available through the Department of Trade and Industry or the European Union.

P1 Castings of Altrincham, Cheshire, has exhibited in France, Germany and Israel and received financial help. But Ian Cookson, sales manager, says: "Do not expect to be told of the grants. It is up to manufacturers to find out for themselves."

Information on grants is available from local authorities, the DTI says. Banks' business advisers should also be clued up on grants.

Mr Holland says: "The DTI sends out leaflets but companies often do not realise that they are eligible. There is some red tape but it is worth applying. After we had obtained a couple of grants we found we were on the DTI's books and they knew what we wanted."

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THE TIMES THURSDAY OCTOBER 5 1995

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Animated

no sign of

Stone

On-line.

The In



FILM 1

Disney dips into history for *Pocahontas*, but ends up with an unusually dull cartoon



FILM 2

... whereas Ken Loach turns history into a blazing Spanish Civil War epic in *Land and Freedom*



FILM 3

... and cinema's own history is recalled in a centenary tribute to Buster Keaton at the NFT



POP

Happy to be freaks on the rock landscape: the Red Hot Chili Peppers hit Brixton

CINEMA: A native heroine undergoes plastic surgery and leaves Geoff Brown cold; while Ken Loach heads for Spain

Animated, but no sign of life

The true story of Captain John Smith and Pocahontas, the Native American girl who saved him from death, has been wrapped in the myths of time ever since the early 17th century. But until Disney's cartoon, *Pocahontas*, none of the myths suggested that Smith — a bewhiskered British soldier of fortune — was a strapping lad with blue eyes, blow-dried blond hair, a weightlifter's neck, and the strong, sexy tones of Mel Gibson. You learn something every day.

Pocahontas is made over, too. Facts indicate that this local chieftain's daughter was no more than 12 when she pleaded for Smith's life and ministered to the English colony in Virginia. Disney's artists have aged her some ten years, given her hair billowing down to the waist, and a singing voice that could shake leaves from trees. The girl has also suffered bizarre plastic surgery she has, especially when seen head on, no nose at all, and precious little chin.

The important question, though, is how well these characters function in whatever story *Pocahontas* elects to tell. The pair, though usefully with "romantic" love, young audiences should also enjoy Pocahontas's pet, a scampering racoon, and a hummingbird. Yet compared to the exuberance of *Aladdin* or the stark tale of good and evil embodied in *The Lion King*, this slice of "Disneyfied" history is short on punch; and the general brooding tone may not please the very young.

As villains go, Ratcliffe, raspy-headed of the British expedition, is all flash and no fire. There is not even a rousing finale: just a slow improbable fadeout as Smith, after stopping a bullet meant for Pocahontas's father, is shipped back to England for his health. Didn't the Indians have a medicine man?

The animation mastermind-

Pocahontas
Odeon Leicester Square,
U, 81 mins
Disney cartoon plays
safe and dull

Land and Freedom
Curzon West End,
15, 109 mins
Ken Loach's
blazing Spanish
Civil War drama

The Net
Odeon West End, 12,
114 mins
New technology,
old thrills

Assassins
Warner West End, 15,
125 mins
Decent vehicle for
Sylvester Stallone

My Family
Plaza, 15, 126 mins
True saga set in
east Los Angeles

ed by Mike Gabriel and Eric Goldberg is usually silky-smooth, but you miss the detail that gives cartoon characters personality. Aside from Pocahontas's lack of nose, no one appears to have any teeth: when lips part, all you see is a white oblong box.

Political attitudes are equally blurry. To pass inspection by the PC police, Disney's team had to respect native customs when Smith drops the word "savages". Pocahontas upbraids him in song. Yet old habits die hard. The faces of some male Indians would suit a cigar store, and the tidy story conveys the feeling of things — genocide, for instance — swept under a carpet.

Telling the truth about Pocahontas would involve marriage to another Englishman, a year in England as an exotic trophy, death from smallpox, and burial in Gravesend. This is not material for a Disney cartoon; but then neither is the

sanitised fantasy we have before us. Who wants a cartoon that is dull?

The Spanish Civil War has generated its own myths, and the Liverpool lad played by Ian Hart in Ken Loach's very impressive *Land and Freedom* believes quite a number himself. "It's a people's army, just ordinary men and women fighting for a cause," he writes to his girlfriend back home. "Socialism in action."

Unemployed, buoyed by rhetoric, he has sailed forth in 1936 to support the Republicans in Spain. Attached to a socialist militia, his mind hardens. Woolly ideals give way to hard questions. Then comes disillusionment. "The party stinks, kid," he writes. Group infighting and Stalin's betrayal of the cause leave the red flag in tatters and fascists on the march.

Land and Freedom gives Ken Loach his largest canvas to date. Instead of housing estates and pubs, the drama is played out with battalions, machine guns, rocky landscapes and a superb cast. No topic gestures for Loach, of course; the camerawork stays plain, fully absorbed by the actors' faces. But the narrative sweep supplies a powerful new dimension.

Loach and his writer, Jim Allen, have another achievement to celebrate. They make politics matter. Apathy or cynicism may rule today, but the people in *Land and Freedom* believe in revolutionary change to create a better world. Loach brings his own visual revolution: where most films indulge in cinematic blitz warfare, Loach's camera stays still for minutes on end as the fighters argue over the collectivisation of land.

Not every part of Jim Allen's script works well. The passionate romance with Rosana Pastor's Spanish girl appears a doubtful nod to mainstream conventions. The framing device gives much greater resonance: these memories of the



Disney's full-length cartoon of the "American Indian" heroine Pocahontas may be politically correct, but it lacks teeth in every sense of the phrase

Thirties come filtered through Hart's letters, found after his death. As we shuttle between Spain and a drab Liverpool, Loach ensures this is no tale from a museum, but a living story of hopes and follies, fiercely relevant to the years after communism's collapse.

The Net appears hotly relevant too. This is a film for the Internet age, with purloined diskettes, double-clicked mice and hacked-into databases. But look below the surface. Irwin Winkler has really made a clumsy but enjoyable old-fashioned thriller, full of women in peril, shadowy alleys, car chases and picturesque locations. A Hitchcock movie in modern dress.

But not quite. Even in his dotage Hitchcock would never have allowed so many implau-

sibilities into his script. He would also never have accepted Sandra Bullock. Hitch liked his heroines blonde, enigmatic and icy: Bullock's computer expert — shy, ordinary, auburn-haired — is someone you want to stroke, like a pet.

While testing a CD-Rom game, she stumbles across a network of hackers able to inflict disaster on the most sensitive computers. Here the script skates on the thinnest of ice. Does no institution back up its databases? And how convenient of Bullock to have almost no friends and a mother suffering from Alzheimer's when computers wipe out her very identity, who can hear her clamour?

In his flashiest enterprise since turning director with *Guilty By Suspicion*, Winkler still lacks visual finesse, but he generates enough suspense for short-term success. And if Jeremy Northam's nastily charming British hacker seems a standard-issue villain, Sandra Bullock's Everywoman is someone we all want to root for. Her magic may not last, but at the moment she can twist audiences round her finger.

Sylvester Stallone can do that through muscle power alone, though recent vehicles have not given him much chance. *Assassins*, directed by Richard Donner, is no masterpiece, but it certainly improves on *The Specialist*. You can spot the film's ambitions early on when Stallone's contract

killer invites his target to do the deed himself. "It's chambered," Sly says, passing the gun. Not loaded; chambered.

Stallone is a melancholy chap. Wears glasses, plays chess. The Cold War's end has spoiled the game, and he wants out. He finds a soulmate in Julianne Moore, the cunning surveillance expert he is paid to eliminate: her only friend is a fluffy cat. Antonio Banderas completes the triangle, an impudent hired gun who shadows Stallone's every move.

The script aims to give the characters depth, but Donner is not cut out for anything fancy. Give him explosives, air-conditioning ducts and collapsing floors and he does the expected nicely enough. The players bounce off each other well, and relish what humour

there is. "She likes me," Stallone purrs as Moore's cat makes for his lap. "She likes dead fish, too," she replies.

There is nothing tart about *My Family*, a sweet-toothed family saga from Gregory Nava, who ten years ago followed the American progress of Guatemalan refugees in his acclaimed *El Norte*. Now his immigrants are Mexican. Over three decades in east Los Angeles they get born, get married, get shot and go to jail. The dusky colours are pleasing and some of the performances touch the heart; but the film's emotions are as light as the commentary, spoken in sepulchral tones, by Edward James Olmos. "The corn was green the day that Jimmy came home," he intones. Corn indeed.

Buster Keaton was born 100 years ago this week. David Robinson celebrates a master of every comic technique

Stone-faced genius of slapstick

A brave, absurd, stiff-limbed, convulsive little figure in his flat hat, with his "great stone face", Buster Keaton remains an icon of our century, a perennial favourite in the poster shops. His films — when we get the rare opportunity to see them — have lost nothing of their freshness.

Opportunity knocks this month. Keaton was born 100 years ago this week, and the National Film Theatre is marking the centenary with a retrospective of his 12 silent features. They prove again that it is not just the romantic fantasy of the nostalgists to say that they cannot make films like this any more. Visual comedy reached a high point in the 1920s that has not been equalled. Keaton's contemporaries included Chaplin, Harold Lloyd, Harry Langdon, Laurel and Hardy, as well as hundreds of minor comedians, any one of whose comic skills would seem outstanding today.

This Golden Age was the legacy of the vaudeville and variety theatres that flourished in Britain and America at the turn of the century. The fiercely competitive vaudeville profession was an incomparable school. The music-hall performer was his own scenarist, designer and director. He really had to be the master

of every aspect of stagecraft. At three, Joseph Francis Keaton joined his parents' vaudeville act. He learnt acrobatics and comedy falls almost as soon as he could walk. A fellow performer, the young Harry Houdini, nicknamed the child "Buster" after seeing him fall down a flight of stairs without injury. In time, the act was renamed "Buster, assisted by Joe and Myra Keaton".

In 1917 Buster threw up a lucrative vaudeville offer — to work in two-reel slapstick comedies with the heavy-weight clown, Fatty Arbuckle. Keaton's more subtle influence was quickly evident in the Arbuckle films; and in 1920 he opened his own studio. In the next nine years he directed and starred in 19 shorts and 12 features — a body of 30 hours of perfect comedy.

Today we value Keaton not only as a performer, but as a superb director. Although co-directors are credited, Keaton's films all bear the mark of one author. All show the same unerring instinct for placing the camera and the same faultless timing in performance and cutting.

"We stayed with the story all



Buster: so called after falling down stairs without injury

of the way," Keaton recalled. "In the old days all of us — Chaplin, Lloyd, Langdon and myself — worked with our writers from the day they started on a story. We checked on the scenery, the cast, the locations. We directed our own pictures, making up our own gags as we went along, saw the rushes, supervised the cutting, went to the sneak preview."

Keaton's gags, characterised by their mechanical ingenuity and precision, are

choreographed into marvellous, escalating enchainments which, after 70 years, still invariably draw a round of applause.

He spared no pains. In the climactic scene of *Our Hospitality* he swings on a rope over a veritable Niagara to rescue the heroine at the brink of the torrent. In *Steamboat Bill Jr.*, a house falls upon him: he is saved only by an open window which fortuitously fits round him.

Such scenes were done with-

out tricks or doubles. Keaton's ruling aesthetic principle was that his comedy must be "funny without being ridiculous". In a sense he was the most realistic of comedians: however fantastic, we know that the incidents in his films are possible, because we witness him doing them. The price was often high. He broke his neck making *Sherlock Jr.* and came close to drowning on *Our Hospitality*.

The design and production values of Keaton's films are always exceptional. His principal prop for *The Navigator* is a real ocean liner. *Our Hospitality*, with its marvellous early steam train, is a ravishing re-creation of the rural scene of the last century.

The *General* evokes the Civil War with the documentary fidelity of Matthew Brady. Keaton explained that it looks so much more realistic than *Gone With the Wind* because "they went to a novel; we went back to history".

The myth of "the great stone face" is deceiving. Keaton was a supremely expressive actor. If he never smiled, it was because "I had other ways of showing I was happy". He acted with his entire body;

though equally he could express ecstasy merely by a slow lowering of the lids of his beautiful, pensive eyes.

Keaton's creative career virtually ended when he was only 34. With the coming of sound and the consolidation of the great studios, there was no longer a place for individualists like him.

Against his better judgment he forfeited the independence of his own studio to become an employee of MGM. He found himself subordinated to producers and scripts and schedules, and the tyrannical studio head, Louis B. Mayer.

His few sound features fell far short of his silents. For a quarter of a century Keaton found himself a Hollywood outcast, sick and alcoholic, grateful for crumbs of work.

Happily, having overcome the alcoholism, he lived to see his reputation restored, along with his old films. He started again, at the Cirque Medrano in Paris, and was much in demand for guest spots in television and films — notably *Sunset Boulevard*. His final appearance was in Richard Lester's *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, released just after his death on February 1, 1966.

● The Buster Keaton season continues at the National Film Theatre throughout October. Box office: 0171-428 3232

Try a Pepper army

POP

Red Hot Chili Peppers
Brixton Academy

THIRTEEN years down the road and the Red Hot Chili Peppers have achieved massive international success while remaining fiercely unaligned to any "movement" or generic tendency in rock. Part heavy metal, part jazz-funk, part rap act, they are a freak of nature on the rock landscape and happy to keep it that way. But my, it is hard work.

Whereas in the old days a band's collective identity might hinge on an unusual haircut or a distinctive style of clothing, to be a Chili Pepper entails frequent visits to the tattoo parlour and bodybuilding club and a fondness for cross-dressing.

Looking more like a boxer than a drummer, Chad Smith arrived on stage at Brixton in a dressing gown, which an assistant peeled off for him before he mounted his kit. Bass player Flea, the original illustrated rock'n'roll man, wore Bermuda shorts only, while the saturnine guitarist Dave Navarro sported black tights and a pair of big, glinting rings pinned through his nipples. Singer Anthony Kiedis, his hair cascading down to his backside, wore a black, waitress dress and white apron.

They started with *Give It Away* and *Suck My Kiss*, quickly conjuring a mood of

controlled pandemonium as Flea lurched about in frantic flea-like hops. Kiedis tossed his mane of hair like a gogo dancer from hell, and Smith hurled drumsticks high into the audience.

The rhythm section of Flea and Smith performed sensationally throughout, but Kiedis was more variable. Always a forceful presence, he was at his best on the ballad *Under The Bridge* and the genial, sing-song rap of *Walk About*. But his technical limitations became increasingly apparent on the louder numbers, which predominated, when he tended to resort to a tuneless bawl.

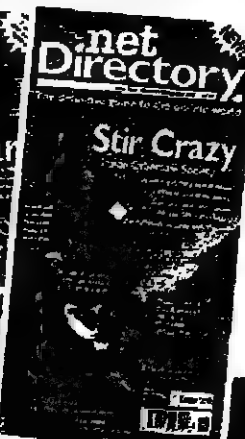
Increasingly, it was Flea who became the star of the show. After a verse of David Bowie's *Sound And Vision*, they swept into their celebrated version of Stevie Wonder's *Higher Ground*, essentially a showcase for Flea's high-energy slap-bass playing.

DAVID SINCLAIR

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CHOICE 1

Idomeneo staged with Anthony Rolfe-Johnson in the title role

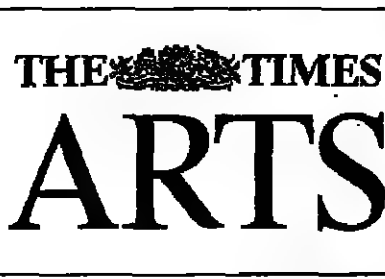
VENUE: From tonight at the New Theatre, Cardiff



CHOICE 2

Oscar Wilde's An Ideal Husband opens Salisbury's refurbished theatre

VENUE: From tonight at the Playhouse



THEATRE 1

Harold Pinter's early play, The Hothouse, proves well worthy of its West End outing



THEATRE 2

... while under a viaduct in Halifax, strange things are happening to Shakespeare

LONDON

GANGSTER NO 1 First week of performances for Louis Meltz and David Smith's bloody pastiche of London underworld. Jonathan Price is growing godfather and Peter Bowles playing lightning-fast assassin. Opening tomorrow at 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. Oct 14, 2.30pm. Oct 15, 7.30pm.

FAVOURITES FROM DE FALLA Rafael Furber de Burgos leads the London Symphony Orchestra for a colourful Spanish programme tonight, opening with his own orchestration of Albéniz's Suite Española. De Falla's Nights in the Garden of Spain and suites from his ballet music: The Three Corned Hat, and Andalusian Dance. Barbican, Sat, 7.30pm. Oct 14, 7.30pm.

WADAIKHO ICHIRO DRUMMERS All the classic superlatives really do fit the bill for the Japanese drumming troupe, returning to the UK after taking last year's Edinburgh Festival by storm. An explosively choreographed combination of 1500 years of tradition and contemporary spectacle make for an event you won't soon forget. Haymarket, Oct 14, 7.30pm. Oct 15, 7.30pm.

BLUE ON BLUE Opening night for a new play by award-winning author Matthew Bentley: the trauma of war (Midlands version) and a gritty debut for a young C2 actor, sergeant. Oct 14, 7.30pm. Oct 15, 7.30pm. Oct 16, 7.30pm.

DEAD FUNNY Belinda Lang, Kevin McNally and Sam Kelly in Terry Johnson's sharply funny play about a comedy troupe and the lives of their lives. The Strand, WCC (0171-836 8888). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.15pm, mat, Wed, 2.30pm and Sat, 5pm.

RUNNY MONEY Ray Cooney as a man who picks up the wrong briefcase and finds himself rather by £750,000 in used £50 notes. The ensuing havoc involves Sylvia Sims, Henry McGee and Charlie Drake. Playhouse, Northampton Avenue, WCC (0171-836 4401). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat, Tue-Sat, 3pm and Sat, 5pm.

THE GLASS MENAGERIE Fine performances by Zoe Wanamaker, Claire Skinner, Ben Chaplin and Mark Dymally in Tennessee Williams's elegiac play of false hopes and shattered dreams. DeWolfe, WCC (0171-399 1731). Tue-Sat, 8pm, mat, Tue-Sat, 3pm and Sun, 4pm.

HOW TO LIVE Enthralling deconstruction of the English experiment of boom, drama, performed by members of Volcano Theatre, directed by Nigel Charnock.

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

ELSEWHERE

CARDIFF Welsh National Opera revives Howard Davies's acclaimed 1961 production of Mozart's first undoubted masterpiece, Idomeneo, the opera as his grandest and most serious, wrapped in the passion of raging tempests and sacrifices to Neptune. St. Charles, Macfarlane conducts, with Anthony Rolfe-Johnson leading the cast. New, Plan Place, Cardiff (01222 878888). Tonight, 7.15pm.

IPSWICH Shared Experience begins its latest tour with Peter Toller's production of Eugene O'Neill's *Desire Under the Elm*. Gabrielle Reilly plays the girl loved by the son of the latter. Ipswich, Civic Drive (01473 232723). Opens tonight, 7.45pm. Then Tue-Fri, 7.45pm. Sat, 8pm, mat, Wed, 2.30pm and Sat, 4pm. Until Oct 14.

NOTTINGHAM Matthew Kelly plays the greatest showman in The Cabinet of Doctor Caligari, inspired by the German silent classic. Mark Dymally directs what promises to be one of the

LONDON GALLERIES

Barbican Art of African Textiles (0171-636 4141). British Museum, Passionate Art of Umanero (0171-636 1550). Design Museum, Paul Smith True Brit (0171-378 6555). National Gallery: Myths and Fables: Three Paintings by Piero di Cosimo (0171-747 2085). National Portrait Gallery: BP Portrait Award (0171-336 0059).

Royal Academy African Art of a Continent (0171-438 7438). Serpentine, Big City Artists from Africa (0171-725 9072). Tate, Shachidze the Sky Turner watercolour (0171-887 8000). V & A, Design for Georgian Architecture (0171-658 6500). Whitechapel, Seven Stories about Modern Art in Africa (0171-622 7888).

Young Vic, The Cui, SE1 (0171-898 8888). Today, 2pm and 7.15pm.

RAT IN THE SKULL: The Royal Court Classics. Season opens with Ron Hutchinson's 1984 drama Tony Foyler's JC. Directed by John Burt Foster. Caught with explosives. Stephen Daldry directs. Bull of Yankin's St Martin's Lane, WCC (0171-836 5121). Preview, 7.30pm. Sat, 3pm. Opens Oct 11, 7pm. Phone box office to confirm ticket availability.

TAKING SIDES: Enthralling drama by Ronald Harwood, based on the investigations of coroners. A play in which Pinter introduced mystery and menace, but also a succession of encounters that are very funny. Pinter was writing revue sketches at the time, and when a number of these were broadcast, the programme included two excerpts from *The Hothouse*. One contained the prosaic, unforgettable line, "The snow has turned to slush", that must have sounded unnerving out of context. In the other excerpt an obnoxious young man named Lamb is subjected to a barrage of personal questions - "Are you *virgo intacta*? Have you always been *virgo intacta*? From the word go?"

THREE TALL WOMEN: Maggie Smith returns, with Sara Kestelman and Suzanne Bredan in Edward Albee's fascinating play about the adoptive mother who whored her childhood. Wyndham, Chancery Court Road, WCC (0171-399 1731). Tue-Sat, 8pm, mat, Wed and Sat, 3pm. Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre.

THE CITY OF LOST CHILDREN (15): Indigestible fantasy from Janet and Caro, the Chichester-based duo, with digital effects, low on banter, with Ron Perlman and Daniel Enochs. Midland, 438, Tottenham Court Road (0171-836 6148). Warner (0171-437 4343).

THE QUICK AND THE DEAD (16): Gunningham's show-stopping bad movie. A film about a man who is a professional, directed by Sam Raimi. Oct 14, 7.30pm. Oct 15, 7.30pm. Oct 16, 7.30pm.

WATERWORLD: Aquatic life with spectacular action. Directed by Kevin Costner. With Kevin Costner, Dennis Hopper and Jeanne Tripplehorn. Midland, 438, Tottenham Court Road (0171-836 6148). Warner (0171-437 4343).

THE BRIDGES OF MADISON COUNTY (15): Best-selling romantic novel is the best-glow treatment by director Clint Eastwood, who stars with Mel Gibson. Cinelife Picture House (0171-370 2630). Haymarket (0171-339 1527). Koffing Hill Cinema (0171-727 1272). Empire (0171-235 9772). Baskin (0171-235 9772). Fulham Rd (0171-370 2630). Piccadilly (0171-434 0031).

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Pinter returns to the Roote of all evil

The Hothouse Comedy

This is the play that Pinter wrote after *The Birthday Party* had received such a pasting from the London critics that it closed at the end of its first week. He decided against trying to stage it and went on to write *The Caretaker*. Instead, *The Hothouse* languished for 20 years before he looked at it again and directed it himself, at Hampstead, in 1980. This is its first major production since then, and arrives in London from its run at Chichester.

Today we can enjoy what audiences in 1959 might not have appreciated, a play in which Pinter introduced mystery and menace, but also a succession of encounters that are very funny. Pinter was writing revue sketches at the time, and when a number of these were broadcast, the programme included two excerpts from *The Hothouse*. One contained the prosaic, unforgettable line, "The snow has turned to slush", that must have sounded unnerving out of context. In the other excerpt an obnoxious young man named Lamb is subjected to a barrage of personal questions - "Are you *virgo intacta*? Have you always been *virgo intacta*? From the word go?"

In the current production the naive Lamb (Christian Anhalt) is taken to an interviewing room. Electrodes are placed on his hands and head, and the interrogation ends with him in a catatonic trance. This is far from being a humorous event, but Pinter already shows himself to be master of the art of turning comedy to terror in a sentence.

The play is set in some kind of mental hospital. The Governor, Colonel Roote, is showing

signs of strain: his creepily efficient assistant, Gibbs, manoeuvres events to his advantage; the energies of the artfully sycophantic Lush are more taken up with verbal victories. A patient has died. Another has given birth to a boy. It is Christmas Day.

A curiosity of David Jones's tense and excellent direction is the introduction of a Christmas Carol to preface each act. Taken along with the mysterious birth and the name of the sacrificial victim, it is impossible not to suppose that the play is contrasting some notion of Christian hope with the ruthless reality of the organisation that contains and destroys it.

Of the portraits Pinter draws of his scheming apparatchiks, all except Gibbs (John Shrapnel - excellent) are presented as victims of one another, scoring pious little victories but deflated soon afterwards. Celia Innie's erotic Miss Cuts describes herself as a spider caught in a web, and this image describes them all.

Pinter himself plays Roote, nodding with absurd self-approval and allowing his accent to hurry down the social register as drink and panic take their toll. His scenes with Tony Haygarth's Lush are marvellously comic. Whatever his reasons for once discarding this early play, a precursor of his political plays of the 1980s, he did well to disinter it.

JEREMY KINGSTON



Like spiders caught in a web: the scheming apparatchiks of Pinter's 20-year-old play include Celia Innie as Miss Cuts and Harold Pinter himself as Colonel Roote

Cleo's monument to brown ale and chips

Antony and Cleopatra Viaduct, Halifax

There is a curious opening, in which boys spoof the lovers from a makeshift stage on a trolley. But there is no need to worry. On come Rutter's Antony in his red shirt and fawn trousers and Benion's Cleopatra in her white lace bodice and coral slacks. All becomes straightforward on what, apart from a low platform covered with drapes and cushions, is a long, bare corridor between a spiral staircase.

Dave Hill's Enobarbus is a saloon-bar slouch who passes from complacency to sullen gloom to despair. Andrew Cryer's Octavius is a sharp, shrewd type who, were he not conquering the world, would probably be rising fast in the Halifax CID. Deborah McAndrew's neat Octavia looks

like a floor manager in a department store. David Fenwick's Maecenas is across as a polite version of "gerroff", and amused the first-night audience more than it should. But mostly the production fulfils its intention, which is presumably to give back the play to the groundlings; to strip away romantic gloss and grandeur without losing human vigour.

Vigour certainly marks both the main performances. Rutter trades sensuality and decay for solidity, dignity and a gruff tenderness. Benion is a tough, streetwise woman whose reaction to unappealing news is to thump the messenger in the solar plexus, half-suffocate him with a cushion and then run at him with a knife. She is not the sort of Cleopatra with whom one can imagine con-

One or two moments go further than even the company's closest friends can have wished. When the dying Antony is handed over the wire mesh of the Monument, he finds himself stuck and smothered by Cleopatra. At that point Rutter's "let me speak a little" comes across as a polite version of "gerroff", and amused the first-night audience more than it should. But mostly the production fulfils its intention, which is presumably to give back the play to the groundlings; to strip away romantic gloss and grandeur without losing human vigour.

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SCHOOLS

Gloucestershire sixth-formers visit Romania to discover a new approach to Shakespeare

MUSIC

Why an ensemble of elderly Chinese men has come halfway across the world to tour Britain

THE TIMES ARTS

DANCE

Rambert offers a superb revival of Robert Cohan's intensely moving *Stabat Mater*

TOMORROW

Not so much a pop record, more a lifestyle accessory: Simply Red's latest album reviewed

Lessons in the art of power

Hilary Finch reports on a Shakespearean dialogue between British and Romanian students

A part from eager sponsors, there's nothing a festival likes quite so much as a theme. Imagine the glitz at the Cheltenham Literature Festival, which this year is planning a core of readings, discussions and performances on "writing in post-ideological society", when they discovered a comprehensive school round the corner with its own flourishing links with Romania. Why not send a group of students there, all expenses paid, with a brief to research contemporary Romanian theatre and Eastern European approaches to Shakespeare? Then get them to stage their findings on their return, and call it *The Rest is Silence*: a neat title for a neat slot.

But life has a way of being untidy, and things did not work out quite like that. For a start, the English-language production of *Hamlet* that the nine sixth-formers and two teachers of Chosen Hill comprehensive school, Churchdown, were intending to see turned out to be *Henry VI* — in Romanian. They found that out after a 26-hour round-trip by coach and truck from their host village of Sibiu, 100 miles north of Bucharest.

They had already discovered, then, that nobody really wanted to talk about the revolution anyway. Robert Dicks, Chosen Hill's head of drama, found that they refused to see the speedy overthrow and execution of Ceausescu in 1989 as a genuine uprising at all. There was a lot of stage-management at the time, and many people who were in power then are still at the helm now. They're not so frightened but there's a lot of caution, a lot of reluctance.

So the before-and-after thesis was finding little support for a start. The children noticed, too, that when they shared Shakespeare workshops with their contemporaries in the Sekely Miklo Kollegium, drama, in schools was virtually unheard of. "A teacher stands at the front and gives out notes on Shakespeare, which they then have to learn. There's no debate. They seem very cautious about using their own brains," says 16-year-old Margaret Winsland. Improvisation and mime were totally new to the Romanian students; and this despite a flourishing centre for Shakespeare scholarship just round the corner, and a professional theatre in the

vanguard of new Shakespeare production.

The researchers of Chosen Hill were hardly short of material. But they had to tease it out of a jumble of totally unexpected impressions, and create their own drama without compromising either Shakespeare's text or their own experience. After much agonising, *Macbeth* seemed the most honest choice. "But," says Dicks, "we had to tread carefully. We've started from the point at which Macbeth takes power, and we've tried to examine how he keeps it, how it corrupts him, and the way he handles the resistance. The three witches, for example, are no longer external supernatural beings, but part of an intriguing underground network."

More than the working out of any blow-by-blow concept, it has been the oblique, even subconscious, experiences of the students which are filtering through into their own production. There is, for instance, the

power of communication which transcends language. Winsland again: "We couldn't understand what they were saying in *Henry VI*, but we could still feel it inside." Gayle Bennett, the English teacher who also accompanied them, noted the way in which the language barrier, and the strong visual symbolism of the Transylvanian production, actually released the less academic students, who had hitherto been reluctant to study Shakespeare, into a new enthusiasm for the work.

The nine students from Chosen Hill now have two obsessions. One is Shakespeare and the other is how to bring their Romanian friends to England. The Cheltenham Festival of Literature runs from tomorrow to Sunday October 15 (01242 22979).

Chosen Hill School's *Macbeth* plays as part of the Youth Drama Festival on Tuesday at 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Tickets £4 (12 occasions) from 01242 22979.

Further information on future Youth Drama Festival events from Helen Phillips, Cheltenham Town Hall, Imperial Square, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL50 1QA (01242 521621).

What's a Chinese village band doing on a tour of Britain? Linda Christmas reveals all

Have gongs, will finally travel

Xuan Ke is a tourist attraction. He lives in a remote corner of southwest China. His birthplace, Lijiang in Yunnan province, is as pretty as a Cotswold village, which is why tourists head there in the first place. And then they find Xuan Ke. He leads an ensemble of elderly men who play ancient Chinese music. Foreign visitors are smitten by the soothing sound and his personality. He has never been outside China, but on Sunday he and nine members of the ensemble will play at the Purcell Room in London, followed by a recording session and concerts in Manchester, Hull and Birmingham.

Xuan Ke, who is 66, reacted to the first question, "How much does this tour cost?" he asked, glancing around the kind of room found in any four-star hotel. In Kunming, capital of Yunnan province, they are still a novelty.

"Ninety dollars a night," I answered. "That's two months' pension to me," he replied. His ease with strangers, and somewhat brash approach, undermines the Western view that all Chinese are inscrutable. But then Xuan Ke is not Han Chinese but Naxi, one of many ethnic minority groups in Yunnan. The Naxi, once Tibetan nomads, are forthright and proud of it. And proud, too, of their music-making.

Xuan Ke is credited with bringing Naxi *dongting*, or Taoist bible music, back to life. The music of Han Chinese origin, was performed for many centuries. It is given a special Naxi sound by the use of locally made instruments. The ensemble includes bowed lutes, plucked lutes, bamboo flutes and exotic percussion instruments, including an eye-catching set of tuned gongs.

It was originally performed by members of Taoist scripture associations, socially exclusive clubs for educated men. The music accompanied ceremonies to celebrate festivals of various gods. The instruments all follow the same basic tune, but each embellishes it differently.

In 1949 the incoming Communists banned the associations. The secular pieces were still played until the Cultural Revolution, then they too were banned. In 1978 Xuan Ke began the revival. That was the year he came out of prison. He began his musical career



The ancient music was banned by the Communists in 1949 and risks dying out. "Much is handed down by word of mouth," explains Xuan Ke

in the 1940s, studying piano and Western music at the Kunming academy. From 1958 until 1978 he was either in jail or a labour camp. "This was partly because of my interest in Western music, but also because I fell into a trap laid by Chairman Mao. He said we could talk freely: he said he wanted a hundred flowers to bloom and we believed him. So I became a spokesman for minorities. I don't talk about that period: people hated each other, spied on each other. You were even frightened of talking in your sleep."

In 1978 he returned to Lijiang to become a music teacher. Some older musicians were still alive. At first they played together for enjoyment. Then, encouraged by Xuan Ke, they began to rebuild the orchestra and train students.

It is important now that we capture these traditions much as they are, in danger of dying out. Also, the opening up of China means that young

people are happier in the disco with Chinese pop music, or with karaoke and Hung Fu. The government agrees: Xuan Ke is at last in tune with them.

The Asian Music Circuit is spending a large chunk of this year's budget bringing Xuan Ke's ensemble to England. Its commitment illustrates the growing interest in Chinese music, old and new. This summer's Proms included an evening of music from the Far East. The highlight was Wu Man, a virtuoso *pipa* (plucked lute) player. She now lives in America and demonstrated the blending of an old instrument with new ideas.

What's more, Tan Dun (also living in America) had a *Proms* slot to conduct his own works. A power cut deprived the audience of part of the programme, but Tan Dun is back again on October 22, this time at the Queen Elizabeth Hall with the London Sin-

fonia. He will conduct his own music and that of four contemporaries, three living in the West. All will be joining him at a composers' forum before the concert.

Tan Dun's last work, composed before he left China in 1986, is entitled *On Taoism*, and he readily admits the influence of the Taoist temple music being revived by Xuan Ke. "My grandmother was a Taoist, and the sounds of funerals and other rituals formed my early environment. Taoist music was particularly strong in my province, Hunan, as well as in Yunnan. My music is not religious, but it has a spiritual quality, and when I am conducting I feel like a high priest in a Taoist temple. My gestures, the movement of my hands and my arms, are influenced by the gestures used by a priest."

Naxi Music from China is at the Purcell Room, South Bank, SE1 on Sunday at 7.30pm. For tour details contact the Asian Music Circuit on 0181-742 9911

DANCE: Debra Crazine welcomes Rambert's revival of a classic Robert Cohan work

A painful beauty

LONDON Contemporary Dance Theatre is no more, which means that if Robert Cohan's work is to live on it will have to be through other companies.

So hats off to Christopher Bruce, who has revived Cohan's *Stabat Mater* for his Rambert Dance Company. This is a beautiful and heart-felt work; to think it was

almost consigned to history is unbelievable. *Stabat Mater* was made for LCDT (the company Cohan built) in 1975 and it seems a world away from the cynical manipulation of so much of today's new choreography. Its emotional

impulses are intense and unblinking, yet contained within a fierce structural discipline that keeps mawkishness at bay. At its heart is the grief of the Virgin Mary, weeping for her Son on the Cross. In Cohan's creation her fate is

pure, unadorned by superfluous intellectual colouring, and fuelled by such a sensual weight that pain and passion become intertwined.

The work is danced to Vivaldi's musical setting (played by the London Music). With their long dresses and tightly wound hair, the nine Rambert women look like Graham Girls. The reference to Martha Graham is, of course, intentional: Cohan began his dancing career in America with the lady herself and in his subsequent choreography in this country he too drank from the well of blood-rich theatrical expressionism.

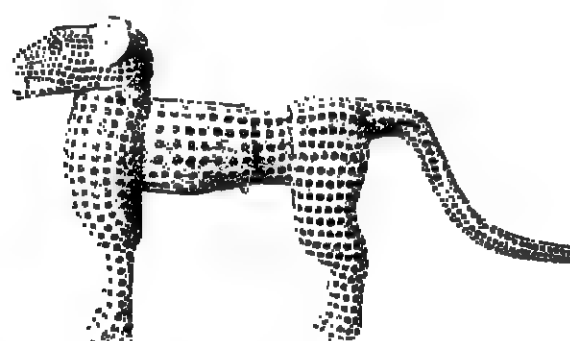
Graham's uniquely personal movement language is there in *Stabat Mater*: the beautifully shaped contractions; the slow rotation of the unfolding torso; the limbs straining to make contact with a tangible emotional reality. And, again like Graham, Cohan uses a chorus to describe and amplify the Virgin's maternal sorrow. A baroque formality informs the piece as these eight dancers are grouped, in their different poses, like precious figurines, while the central figure struggles alone.

The well-trained dancers of Rambert are glorious interpreters of *Stabat Mater*. They understand the physical weight of its economical and focused choreography, but the heavy emotional commitment is never overstated. As the central figure on opening night (at the Swan, High Wycombe), Sara Matthews was self-contained within her loss, her body etched with the damage of heartbreak. She was supported by a breathtaking chorus, particularly the mesmerising Kate Coyne.

The programme tells us that this restaging of *Stabat Mater* "has been made possible by a generous anonymous donation". A huge "thank you" to whoever that may be.

VISIONS OF AFRICA

A daily series of items featured in the Royal Academy's current exhibition, *Africa — The Art of a Continent*



Leopard, Benin, Nigeria, 19th Century. Ivory and copper. 47 x 88 cm

This decorative piece has been lent by The Queen to the Africa exhibition. The leopard is made in sections of ivory, and the copper spots are made from the bases of spent gun cartridges.

Phantom finish

THE TIMES THEATRE CLUB

year, *Phantom* stars Ethan Freeman in the story of the hideously disfigured madman who falls in love with and kidnaps a young and beautiful woman. The bare bones of the story, though, do nothing to capture the grandeur of the songs and, in particular, the sets — a show in themselves.

The Theatre Club has reserved a number of seats at Her Majesty's Theatre, Haymarket, London SW1 for the show on October 14. Members are invited to see the show, then join us for dinner and cabaret at the nearby Centre Stage restaurant for just £29. Tel 0800 335588

HOW TO BOOK AND JOIN

TO BOOK, please phone the listed number during normal office hours. The price printed on the ticket you receive will be the special price negotiated by the Theatre Club. There may be a transaction charge to cover postage. TO JOIN the Theatre Club either send a cheque for £12.50, made payable to The Theatre Club, together with your name, address and telephone number to The Theatre Club, P.O. Box 2164, Colchester CO2 8JL, or telephone 01206 791737 using your credit card. Please allow 28 days for delivery of your membership pack. For general inquiries call 0171-387 9673

TWO FOR ONE ALL OVER THE COUNTRY

LONDON Fortune Theatre Oct 11, 15, 22

STEP back in time with Elizabeth Mansfield in the story of the music hall legend Marie Lloyd. Marie captures all the riotous fun and irrepressible talent, as well as the pain and anguish, of a remarkable woman. Theatre Club members can buy two tickets for the price of one (normally £17.50), and get a free programme. Tel 0171-836 2238

Young Vic Oct 17

THE Oxford Stage Company presents *Making the Future*, a season of three new European plays about the young. *Mirad*, *A Boy From Bosnia* (Parts 1 & 2) by Ad de Bont. *Hitler's Childhood* by Niklas Radstrom and Grace by Ignace Cornelissen. Two tickets for the price of one (normally £10) for each double-bill — *Mirad* (Parts 1 & 2) at 4pm and *Hitler's Childhood* plus *Grace* at 7.30pm. Tel 0171-428 6363

EDINBURGH

Netherbow Theatre Oct 26-28
THE Season of Masks and Puppet Theatre brings contemporary visual theatre — for children and adults —

from all over Europe. Club members can get a taste of this festival in performances, recommended for adults, of two shows shown as a double-bill: *Don Quixote*, presented by Bambolina Theatre of Spain, and *J'ai Gagné et Je Général*, presented by Théâtre du Futur de France. Save £1.50 on tickets (normally £5). Tel 0131-556 9579

BRADFORD

Alhambra Theatre Oct 11
JAMES BOLAM and Andrew Sachs star in *Wild Oats*. John O'Keefe's fast and furious romantic comedy. Two tickets for the price of one (normally £7 to £16). Tel 01274 752000

COVENTRY

Belgrave Theatre Oct 11-14
TREVOR GRIFFITHS'S *Comedians* follows the progress of a group of would-be comedians as they fine-tune their acts at night school. Two tickets for the price of one (normally £9 to £15). Tel 01203 553055

LIVERPOOL

Everyman Theatre Oct 10-11, 17-18
GARY OLSEN stars in Peter Rowe's fast and modern — it even includes video

— production of Shakespeare's *Macbeth*. Members can buy two tickets for the price of one (normally £9.50), receive a free programme and meet members of the cast after the performances on October 11 and 18. Tel 0151-709 4776

WINCHESTER

Theatrical Royal Oct 12
SET in Bath in 1789, *The Dramatist*, by Frederic Reynolds, is a delightful satirical romp. Two tickets for the price of one (normally £9.50 to £11). Tel 01962 843434

POOLE

Arts Centre Oct 9
THOMAS HARDY'S final and most controversial work, *Jude the Obscure*, challenges the authority of marriage, and examines the power of sexuality. Two tickets for the price of one (normally £10). Tel 01202 685 222

NOTTINGHAM

Playhouse Oct 9-13
MATTHEW KELLY stars in *The Cabinet of Doktor Caligari*, a psychological thriller by Barry Sinner. Save 20 per cent on tickets (normally £6.25 to £12.25). Tel 0115-941 9419



2 for 1 cinema

More people are going to the cinema than ever before and The Times, in association with United Cinemas International (UCI), is offering you the chance to see some of the best films around such as *The Quick and the Dead*, starring Sharon Stone (above) and Gene Hackman, by taking advantage of our exclusive two for the price of one ticket offer.

All you have to do is complete the coupon which appeared in Monday's Times and attach three of the five tokens we are publishing this week. You will receive a second ticket when you purchase a full price ticket and present the coupon and tokens at one of the UCI cinemas listed below between Saturday, October 7 to Friday, October 20, inclusive.

Tomorrow you can watch all the glamorous actors and actresses going to the London premiere of *Pocahontas* because it is being beamed via satellite to those cinemas marked with an asterisk. Before the film cinemagoers will also see a 20-minute floorshow featuring some of Disney's best known characters.

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THE TIMES



TOKEN 4

Poets who do other things

Besides writing poems, poets do other things. Karol Wojtyła is of course the Pope. The *Plague* Within: The Poetry of Pope John Paul II (Hutchinson, £6.99 pbk) collects his verse in an authorised translation by Jerzy Peterkiewicz.

All these poems were written before Wojtyła's election as Pontiff, between 1939 and 1978. During this time he worked in stone quarries and a chemical plant before he began secretly to study for the priesthood in 1942. He was hidden from the Gestapo by the then Archbishop of Cracow before his ordination in 1946.

These events are relevant to the imagery of Wojtyła's verse, just as his later career as a

teacher of theology and ethics is foreshadowed from the start in the moral seriousness of his themes. Borrowing terms from his *Easter Vigil*, 1966, the poems might be described as conversations with the poet's self which progress to become conversations with his fellow men and ultimately conversations with God. For all their philosophical ambitions, they are rooted in the actual and the material, particularly in an obviously autobiographical sequence called *The Quarry* and in those *Profiles of a Cyrenian*, which commemorate fellow workers, actors, men and women of all kinds encountered during the 1939-45 war.

An attractive feature of many of the poems, well brought out by the translator, is their awareness of the way words can resist the process of thought, yet the thinker must persevere. He must tear through the thicket of signs to the word's very centre, to its weight, the ripeness of fruit. The quotation should serve to show that this is not a volume of dreary devotional verse, even though its motifs must be more religious than poetic.

Thomas Lynch's other profession is that of undertaker, and while there's a whiff of the embalming fluid about his *Unearthed* and *Other Poems* (Corgi, £7 pbk), it still has more than curiosity value. American-Irish, the offers memories of his Roman Catholic boyhood, as well as a sober appraisal of life and death and other practical matters (his father was an undertaker too). The *Unearthed* here are Robert Frost and that flow, beguiling, and Edwin Arlington Robinson, but Lynch has sufficient of his own to say to make this more a case of affinity than influence. Specifically he shares with these writers an ability to make his verse sound like common speech. Only in a dreadful distaste ended *For the Ex-Wife on the Occasion of Her Birthday* do the prosodic skills break down into doggerel. For the most part this is a heartening book: it introduces a poet with a real command of the techniques of verse, writing about an unusual life in an unflashy way.

Peter Reading was for many years a weighbridge operator in an agricultural feedmill, though he got himself sacked in 1992 for refusing to wear the new company uniform. The work in his *Collected Poems: 1970-1994* (Bloodaxe, £9.95 pbk) is gritty, original, and uncompromising, at its best in its contempt for all forms of cant, at its worst in the way it delights in the same contempt. Reading is a satirist with a gift for combining the formal and the colloquial, and in small doses the effect can be exhilarating. Taken as a whole, however, there is something both ponderous and comic about his celebration of his superiority to the objects of his satire — like watching a hippo making fun of its fellow creatures by trying to mimic their movements.

George Mackay Brown is a sort of professional Orcadian as well as a poet and novelist. He has spent his whole life on Orkney, and written books about it which must have done wonders for the tourist trade. The poems in his *The Wreck of the Archangel John Murray* (£7.99 pbk) have their magical moments, but these days the magic is rather too much worked for. Brown has defined his themes as "mainly religious (birth, love, death, resurrection, ceremonies of fishing and agriculture)", and the influences at work here seem to be Norse sagas, the Bible, and Catholic liturgy. The odd woman does put in an appearance, but generally turns out to be a mermaid.

ROBERT NYE

An unfinished novel by Camus has surfaced. Derwent May is enchanted

Adieu to French Algeria

Just before his death in a car accident at the age of 46, Albert Camus was working on *The First Man*. Though he died as long ago as 1960, the publication of this unfinished novel is still an event. Camus was one of the great postwar heroes of literature, almost as much in Britain as in France. The son of a poor Algerian Frenchman and an illiterate Spanish mother, he first became known as one of the eloquent existentialist voices declaring the absurdity of human life — most notably in *The Outsider* (*L'Étranger*), now reissued as a companion to *The First Man* (Hamish Hamilton, £16.99).

But Camus soon revealed himself as an impassioned defender of human reason and happiness in defiance of that absurdity, both in his essays in *The Rebel* (*L'Homme révolté*) and in his magnificent novel about Oran, *The Plague* (*La Peste*). In that book, a wealth of fascinating colonial characters fight in their different ways against the plague microbes, who represent both the grim challenge of the "human condition" and also the German occupiers of France.

He had written only part of the book now published in a translation by David Hap-

THE FIRST MAN
By Albert Camus
Hamish Hamilton, £16.99

good. *The First Man* (*Le premier homme*), when he was killed, but it is a matter for real regret that his daughter has at last decided to let it appear, along with various sheets of notes he made that give us a good idea of how it would have been completed.

In *The First Man*, Camus turns back directly to his Algerian boyhood. His hero, Jacques Cormery, is also an Algerian Frenchman, whose father was killed by shrapnel in the First World War, when Jacques was still a baby living with his mother and grandmother in Algiers.

Jacques, at 40, after what seems to have been a turbulent but successful career (as what we never know), has suddenly experienced a desperate need to find out more about his father. He goes to the bleak military cemetery by the sea at Saint-Brieuc where his father is buried, and there the full realization comes over him that his father was only 29 — younger than he is now — when he died. There swells in him "the overwhelming compassion that a man feels for an unjustly murdered child".

He goes back to Algiers to talk to his mother, now an old woman, but still living in the tiny, ill-smelling apartment in the poor quarter of Algiers where Jacques grew up with her. She was a Spanish woman, whose family had



Camus was at work on *The First Man* when he died in a car crash with his publisher

come from Minorca (and here the parallel with the author's own life begins to get very close). But she is almost deaf, gentle and subdued, remembering scarcely anything.

He does not find his father. Yet as his thoughts go racing back, he starts reliving his childhood — and most of what we have of the book is his memories of that time.

They are wonderful chapters. They are a story of terrible poverty and almost boundless joy. Camus recreates for our senses the sting of his grandmother's heavy whip on his legs when she examines the soles of his shoes and finds that he has worn them down by playing football, or the sound of his shrill, boyish voice rising in the noisy, cheap cinema as he

reads aloud to her the subtitles on the silent films.

But there are also extraordinarily vivid pages about the unshadowed happiness Jacques and his boyhood friends find in bathing in the warm sea until the evening light is green over the city, or fighting the wind using a dead palm leaf as a shield, or going hunting with older men in the hills outside Algiers — "heedlessly consuming," as Camus puts it, "the most gorgeous of the world's offerings".

Moreover, Jacques does find his father, in a sense, precisely by not finding him. Through a superb teacher in his elementary school — his only real father, he feels — and after going to the lycée on a scholarship, he emerged — he now comes to realise — from a

family, a milieu and a continent that for generations had lived and died without knowledge, culture or history. It was a world of which his anonymous and forgotten father, thrown away in the

mud still wearing his colourful Zouave uniform, was the representative and symbol.

Jacques, discovering as he grows up what France and Europe are and mean, is like "the first man". He is challenged to make what he can of this world in which he has to find all the bearings for himself — and so we might be said to see here the original existentialist challenge embodied in a real life, not just in a philosophical thesis.

When he was planning this book, in the late 1950s, Camus was in a dilemma over Algeria. He had become a champion of Algerian freedom, but he felt a deep loyalty to the French Algerians too, and he dreamt of a federation of France and an independent Algeria. But he could not accept Algerian terrorism any more than he could accept French repression, and had turned, bewildered, away from the problem. Meanwhile, his former friend Sartre had mocked him viciously in *Les Temps Modernes* for "betraying history" by his attacks on Stalinism and the French Communists.

Camus's consequent sense of frustration and rejection in the 1950s clearly lies behind the last theme of *Le premier homme* — Jacques's rediscovery of his mother.

There was to be a middle section about Jacques's life and loves in France that never got written. But we know that the book was to end with the avowal of a longing, somehow, to return to the dogged, gentle, anonymous kind of life that the mother of Jacques — and Camus — had lived. The obscure, rhetorical chapter about this is not as good as the rest of the novel. But it marks the last turn in Camus's thought before he died.

This transition is for the most part very natural and idiomatic, though unnatural phrases stick out here and there. It also feels a little thin, whereas Camus's French in *Le premier homme* has an enchanting sensuous ease, breathless and almost unpunctuated though it is.

"Though you are no thinker, you are an artist," Sartre conceded to Camus. This posthumous novel proves once again that Sartre at least got that point right.

Verse made visible

Adam Schwartzman

THE SHADOW OF HIROSHIMA
And Other Film/Poems
By Tony Harrison
Faber, £8.99 pbk original

in which to justify itself, except by its contemporary relevance. And almost all of the pieces collected here are just that, dealing with — among other issues — the Holocaust, various permutations of fundamentalism, and the breakup of the Soviet Union.

The most recent of the texts collected here is that of *The Shadow of Hiroshima*, a recently broadcast film/poem commemorating the dropping of the first atom bomb. To his advantage, Harrison's building-blocks are smaller here than in his other pieces and the language denser and more



Hiroshima, August 6, 1945

laden. For instance: "The cicadas' dry yawn / gets quicker towards 8.22. Fans, like a chorus of quick sighs, / will the doves into the skies."

Possibly the most successful piece in the collection, *The Shadow of Hiroshima* beautifully integrates and permutes through the speeches of the Virgilian Shadow San, its motifs of the peace doves, lovers, fans and the trappings of modern Japan to create a montage that is at once aesthetically thrilling and profoundly insightful. Sometimes stumbling, sometimes flying, Harrison is the first master of a form he has made his own.

Adam Schwartzman's first volume of poetry, *The Good Life*, *The Dirty Life*, is published by Carcanet.

A linguistic Galileo discovers the real one

Stella Tillyard

THE ISLAND OF THE DAY BEFORE
By Umberto Eco
Secker & Warburg, £16.99



Umberto Eco: magical

Imagine Ridley Scott's spacecraft in the film *Alien* transformed into the *Amaryllis*, a double-masted wooden ship setting out from Amsterdam in the 1640s in the cause of scientific experiment and imperial gain. Imagine Sigourney Weaver, leaving the spacecraft, carrying with her the things from which she has sought to escape, turned into Roberto della Griva, an Italian nobleman shipwrecked from the *Amaryllis* onto the seemingly empty *Daphne*. Think (if you are a reader of history) of *The Cheese and the Worms* in which Carlo Ginzburg, Umberto Eco's colleague at the University of Bologna, used medieval manuscripts to describe a cosmology, one man's vision of the heavens and the earth. Remember (if you are a literary critic) the first principle of deconstruction: that we define things and ourselves by everything they are and we are not, but that in so doing, those Others, our opposites, are so inextricably bound to us, that they become a part of us and we a part of them. Put all this together and you have the recipe of Umberto Eco's novel.

At least you have part of the recipe: for the whole add a quantity of information about the New Learning of the 17th century, a generous amount of knowledge about Renaissance medicine, shipbuilding, cartography, exploration, salon life, lyric poetry — and add Eco's own special raising agent: magical heaps of words, that can create for the reader the things they describe.

"To survive, you must tell stories," says the narrator of

The Island of the Day Before. Only when we describe things do they, and thus we, exist. So Roberto finds himself aboard the *Daphne*, anchored on the 180th meridian, and sets out to describe his floating world and the events that brought him there. But in writing his life story he also invents it, and his invention comes to exist, mingling with the world he is discovering on the *Daphne*. Central to both life and discovery is the figure of the Other. In life it is his inventive brother, Ferrante, on the ship an invisible being "who moved as Roberto moved" and mimics his actions. Roberto is inevitably a spiritual traveller, an Odysseus in search of himself. As he comes to understand

and meet the Other, and as he creates and defines Ferrante, he is also defining and understanding himself.

Roberto is a Renaissance courtier, using the New Learning — from the discoveries of Copernicus and Galileo, and a host of theories about time, matter, the origins of the universe, and the mapping of the world — to understand what he finds. What Eco did for medieval scholasticism in *The Name of the Rose*, he does here for the Renaissance and the scientific revolution.

Roberto's earthly journey is an attempt to discover the island of the day before — which exists over the 180th meridian and therefore in yesterday — the place and nature of his origin and beginning. But as it is a spiritual journey too, it ends inevitably in death. Reaching an understanding of Otherness, Roberto turns into it: merging with his double, and with his origin in matter itself, he floats off towards the island he seeks and out of his own story.

These conundrums and their explication are vintage Eco, as is the paradoxical creation of a material world from cornucopias of immaterial words. Full of verbal conjuring, and a tour de force of translation by William Weaver, *The Island of the Day Before* is both an enjoyable fable and a skilful parade of recent literary theory and history of science. But it creates minds rather than hearts. If you want to feel with the hero rather than simply to know him, then you may admire, but you will not adore what Eco does so well.

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Top restaurants offer value-for-money lunches

By LEILA LINTON

THE recession has increased competition among chefs and restaurateurs to deliver value for money, and there has never been a better time to eat in restaurants in Britain, says the Consumers' Association's latest *Good Food Guide*. The best way to maximise gastronomic pleasure while minimising cost is to eat at lunchtime.

"As a result of cutbacks in personal spending and corporate entertaining, lunches at places such as La Tante Claire, Le Gavroche, The Restaurant, Bibendum or Clarke's in London will cost you 40 to 50 per cent less than dinner. With what you have saved over lunch you can buy a theatre ticket," Nicholas Lander, restaurant correspondent, the *Financial Times*, and former owner of Sobos L'Escarpet restaurant, says in a foreword.

The *Guide* also highlights a number of

trends in eating. The number of large restaurants and brasseries, all keen on providing affordable food in an approachable way, continues to grow around Britain. Falling property prices probably gave the initial impetus to the opening of brasseries, but then restaurant-goers became used to the idea of eating in places where silver service was not a priority.

Guide editor Jim Ainsworth says the biggest area of complaint from readers is the so-called "optional" service charge, which he describes as a "VAT wheeze".

Restaurateurs complain that if service is included, they have to deduct 17.5 per cent VAT before distributing the charge to staff. If it is "optional", VAT is not applicable. "This might explain why restaurants get thirty when customers try to opt out of it, though it does not explain why the loophole exists," Mr Ainsworth says.

The number of restaurants charging 15

per cent has decreased slightly since last year, although many, especially those in London, still consider 12.5 per cent to be acceptable.

This year, the *Guide* has changed the way it represents service charges and identifies those restaurants which do not require extra tips, those which leave it to customers' discretion and those in which tips are "optional".

Tipping is a source of potential confrontation between restaurateur and customer, says Mr Ainsworth. "The reason the *Guide* makes such a fuss about it is that there is no point in customers coming out of a restaurant feeling antagonistic and swearing never to return. Such restaurants are cutting their own throats."

About 1,200 restaurants feature in this year's *Guide*, but more than 100 have not made a reappearance from last year. Some have gone out of business or changed chefs,

or simply do not serve food which meets the *Guide's* criteria.

Restaurants given a maximum five stars for cooking this year are:

● La Tante Claire, Royal Hospital Road, London. Price range £32-£101 a head including coffee, wine and service. The *Guide* says: "A single-minded venture, the vision of a man who has cooked here for nearly 20 years, producing top-class French cooking with a bias to his native Gascony."

● Chez Nico, Park Lane, London. Price range £42-£94 a head including coffee, wine and service. "Consummate skill, assurance and confidence are hallmarks of the Lander style."

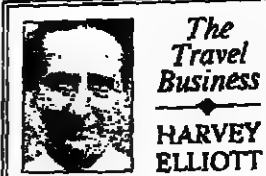
● Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons, Great Milton, Oxfordshire. Price range £41-£107 a head, including coffee, wine and service. The *Guide* says: "One cannot help but be carried along by the sheer sweep of the res-

taurant's ambition and achievement."

● Alnabarrie Inn, Ullapool, Scotland. Price range — £70-£84 a head including coffee, wine and service. "The food is inventive, doesn't follow any particular school, but appears modern by virtue of its simplicity."

Six restaurants received the starred-four rating for cooking: Le Gavroche and The Hyde Park Hotel's The Restaurant, London; Giddeigh Park in Chagford, Devon; L'Ortolan in Shinfield, Berkshire; the Waterside Inn in Bray, Berkshire; and Winterringham Fields in Winterringham, Humbershire. Other restaurants were awarded a four rating for cooking, including the Aubergine and the Connaught, London; the Aberfoyle, Scotland; the Walnut Tree Inn, Llandewi Skirrid, and the Roscoff in Belfast.

● The *Good Food Guide*, published by Which?, costs £14.99.



My flying misery

I HAVE to admit to a frisson of pleasure this week as Britain's tourism experts complained about the kind of problems holidaymakers — their clients — long ago learnt to accept. From the moment the Association of British Travel agents said it would hold its annual conference in South Africa, there were excuses for staying at home.

It was too far away and would mean many being out of the office too long... those invited had had a bad year financially and could not afford it... excursions were too expensive... and in the height of the tourist season — all flights would be full. How right they were.

As the much-depleted group checked in at Heathrow for the British Airways or South African Airways flight to Johannesburg, the hapless travel agents and tour operators were given a notice urging them not to go — and offering up to £400 if they would at least take a later flight when a seat might be found.

Even some of those who had paid the full £2,000-plus return fare were told they would have to travel in economy class. People who turned up with less than an hour and a half to go before takeoff found that their seats had been given to someone else.

Those employed in travel are, generally, cosseted and nurtured by airlines and nearly always provided with an upgrade from economy to business or business to first class. Not this time. Travel agents unused to flying in the back of planes were aghast as pleas for special treatment went unheeded.

Abta had negotiated a discount for them from the usual economy return fare of £1,119; but that was as far as it went. Unless they went the long way round, they had two choices: BA or SAA.

I flew with dozens of the delegates on BA's Boeing 747-400 non-stop service and it was probably the worst, most uncomfortable flight I have ever had. Great excitement was caused last month by the launch of BA's new first and club-class cabins, but little attention was paid to the vast majority of passengers who fly in economy. They, we are told, will be considered next year when the cabin is refurbished. Much needs to be done.

The ten-and-a-half-hour overnight flight to Johannesburg is cramped seats in which sleep is impossible. The dinner is poor, badly served by an understaffed crew with too few trolleys. So they have to run back and forth to the galleys to serve rows individually. Breakfast was inedible and there were too few toilets.

The reasons are plain. BA and SAA have a duopoly on the route, so fares are high, service is low and the airlines can treat passengers almost with disdain as they reap in the biggest profits anywhere on their route network.

Harvey Elliott reports from Sun City on the annual gathering of the Association of British Travel Agents

Fears grow over UK exit tax

CONCERN over an increase in airport departure tax grew throughout this week's Abta conference. Kenneth Clarke is now contemplating increasing the tax from £10 for long-haul flights and £5 for short-haul to £15 and £7 respectively. Delegates calculate that their collective drop in profits since last year's imposition of the tax exactly matches the amount raised by the Chancellor from it, suggesting that it was absorbed by them rather than passed on to the consumer. Many fear that further rises could push them into bankruptcy.

Play happy families

SUN CITY, the vast £170 million casino resort created in the South African veld, is changing its image. Built as a gambling hole for whites from puritanical Johannesburg and Pretoria during apartheid, it is becoming an international family resort.

Holiday jobs attack

DR DAVID BELLAMY, the environmentalist, told delegates that the travel industry could help to solve many of the world's worst environmental problems, provided developments were "made sensibly". "Unfortunately," he said, "the vested interests of the high-end holiday of the past are the biggest obstacle to making the fast-track and reducing the size of your industry in the dirt."

Peace but no space

DELEGATES from Northern Ireland were here in force this week because they said they felt a special affinity with South Africa. Northern Ireland has seen the number of British visitors increase by more than 50 per cent since the peace accord, about the same as South Africa since its new freedom. But both countries have a shortage of hotel rooms.

Ian Henderson, chief executive of the Northern Ireland Tourism Board, urged householders to create more bed and breakfast accommodation.

Fly to Oz for £399

AUSTRALIA is offering flights to Australia or New Zealand for half the price of getting to South Africa on a scheduled airline on selected days next month. Return fares, flying Britannia, are from £399 to Perth, £499 from Gatwick, to Adelaide and Melbourne and £499 from Manchester to Auckland.

Tour firms plan cheaper packages to South Africa

THE COST of a package holiday to South Africa could be cut by up to a half from next year if charter flights to Johannesburg get the expected go-ahead.

Detailed negotiations have started with the South African Government to enable airlines such as Britannia, Monarch and Caledonian to fly at least twice a week from Gatwick or Stansted and other regional airports in Britain.

Britannia, which believes it could fill at least two Boeing 767s each week with package holidaymakers, returning South African residents and people visiting friends and relations, has told the South African authorities that it would expect to charge £599 for a one-week basic package and that flights alone would cost much less.

Caledonian also plans two flights a week with three-engine DC10s. The airline, part of the inspirational group, aims at a lead-in price of £599.

While tourism to South Africa now booming, the pressure is mounting on the Government to lift its restrictions on the number of airlines allowed to fly between Britain and South Africa.

Though Virgin already has a licence to operate, it has not taken it up because, according to Richard Branson, the right take-off and arrival slots at Heathrow are not available.

The South African airline Avia also collapsed last month after failing to make adequate profits with its 747 flights from Johannesburg to Gatwick.

But British charter airlines claim their research proves demand is enormous. They have told government officials that they could double the number of British tourists to the country if they were allowed in on a regular basis.

The state-owned SAA, however, fears that year-round charter operations could damage profitability and is keeping equal pressure on its Government to maintain its duopoly with BA. The route between Johannesburg and London is the most profitable in the world.

British Airways Holidays has now launched a dedicated South Africa brochure. This offers a week's fly-drive for a minimum of £799 plus £24 a person a night for accommodation. But even this operator has difficulty in obtaining enough seats from British Airways. Derek Shanley, a product manager, said: "The demand for South Africa has exceeded all expectations. Our sales have doubled in the past year and British Airways will be introducing extra services to both Durban and Johannesburg next year."

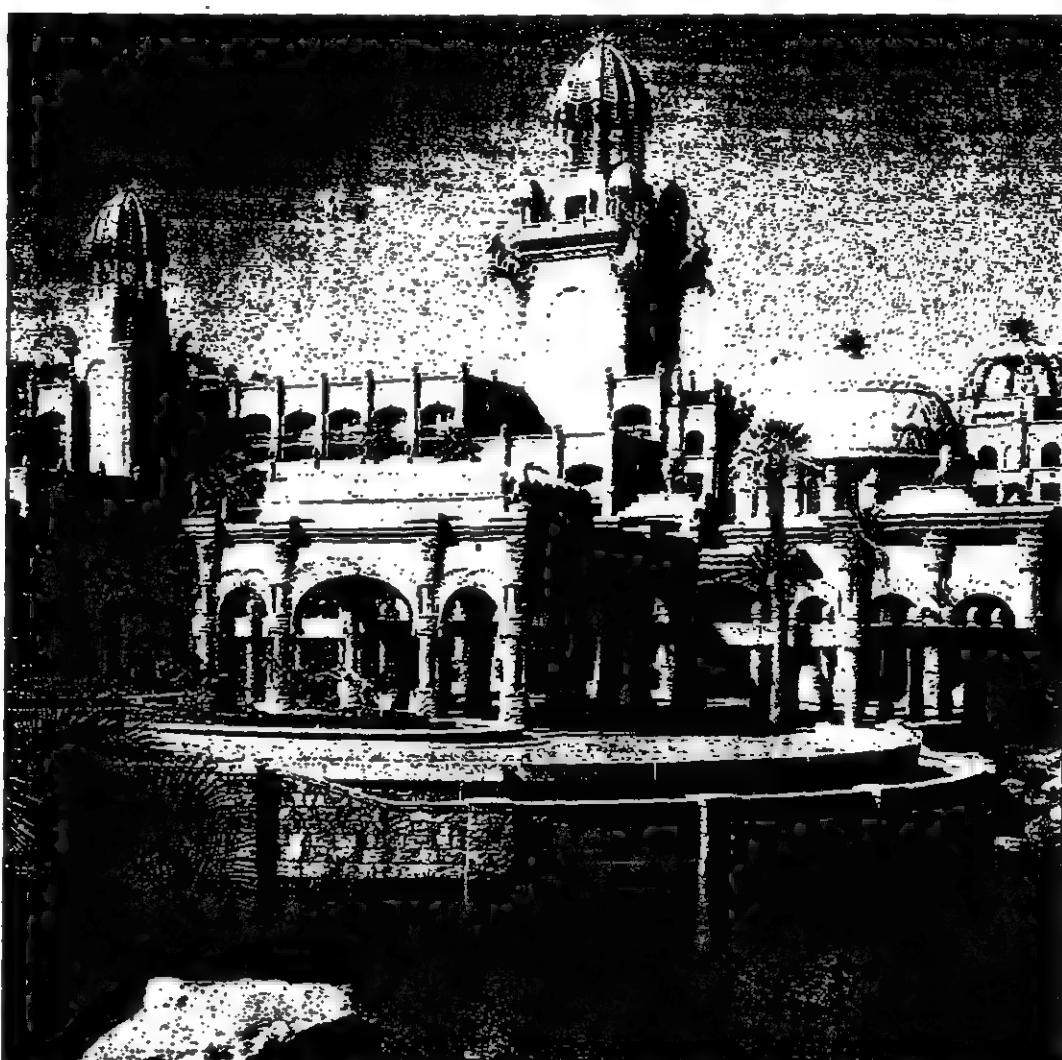
Almost half the seats on the scheduled services are now filled with South Africans making their first venture outside the country since the ending of apartheid.

In an attempt to cope with the surge in demand, BA and SAA have increased the number of flights to Johannesburg to 12 a week. Both airlines say that they will not oppose charter airlines coming in for the peak season of October and November.

But the British charter airlines say they can fill their jets simply with tourists from the UK. They claim they are close to convincing the South African Government to give them the all-clear. The Government, which is committed to increasing its income from tourism, is, however, worried that a lack of facilities at the Jan Smuts airport in Johannesburg and a shortage of hotel beds could lead to visitor dissatisfaction with South Africa. Now Britain's biggest airport operator, BAA, has said it is prepared to run the Johannesburg airport, and hotel companies are developing new properties almost daily.

Last year 160,000 Britons visited South Africa and this number is expected to grow to 200,000 this year and by a further 15 per cent next year. Though British tourists are the biggest single group, the 105,000 Germans who now come to South Africa spend more during their stay.

There is also a big increase in the number of visitors from the Far East now flocking to the newly democratic country.



Sun City, the £170 million casino resort, is now attracting international family holidaymakers

'Boycott the French'

LEADERS of Britain's travel industry were urged this week to boycott "everything French" in protest at the continued nuclear tests in the Pacific. The campaigning naturalist Dr David Bellamy told more than 1,000 delegates to the annual conference of the Association of British Travel Agents in Sun City: "I think you should boycott everything French you possibly can."

His views, though loudly applauded by individual delegates, found little official backing outside Martin Brackenbury, the president of the Federation of Tour Operators, said: "It is not the job of tour operators or travel agents to become involved in politics of any kind. It is up to the individual consumer to decide where he wants to go or to avoid and what goods to buy."

"If we had taken boycott action against regimes or governments with which we may have disagreed, we would not have gone to Spain under Franco, Russia under the Communists, South Africa

under apartheid or dozens of other countries around the world."

But Warren Sandral, of French Life Holidays, which also represents tour operators on the Abta council, urged the British Government rather than travellers to put pressure on France.

"More than 85 per cent of the French people are against what their Government is doing," he said. "So any boycott of either goods or travel to the country itself would have no effect. Instead the British Government should no longer sit back but join others in Europe in putting pressure on the French Government."

He admitted that so far there had been no cancellations among his customers as a result of the French nuclear test. Andrew Bahe, managing director of Austravel and Ausbound, the leading tour operators to Australia and New Zealand, said that there had already been cancellations to Tahiti as a result of the tests and local protest riots, and that he expected

these to continue. About a quarter of the 60,000 customers a year who travel to Australia or New Zealand from Britain with his company now choose to stop off en route in the Pacific with five to six thousand heading for Tahiti.

"Tahiti is regarded as the ultimate Ball Hail," he said. "The explosion and the riots in Tahiti have led to a significant number of people — mainly Americans — cancelling or changing their itineraries to go to Fiji, the Cook Islands, or other Pacific destinations or to stay longer in Australia or New Zealand."

Dr Bellamy admitted that there appeared to be little leakage from the nuclear explosion beneath Mururoa, but he said that the atoll had already been badly affected by previous tests. All kinds of action — whether against atomic testing or the dumping of oil industry waste at sea — should, however, he said, be based on ethical rather than necessarily practical considerations.

Ski resorts club together

IN AN attempt to promote Austrian skiing, 18 of the country's main resorts have formed themselves into a club called Top Ski Austria. Graham Duffell writes.

Launched in London last week, the club offers members cut-price ski hire in Intersport shops at the resorts, including

free daily ski waxing, and free equipment hire for children under seven.

The resorts' ski schools promise free half-day ski guidance by instructors, and any beginner who takes a five or six-day class and does not learn to ski well enough to pass a simple test may repeat

the course free of charge. They also guarantee ski instructors will speak in English.

Other benefits include discounts on car hire, swimming pools and tennis courts.

For details or to ask for membership, which is free, contact the Austrian National Tourist Office (0171-629 0461).

BAA opens factory shops

By DAVID CHURCHILL

BAA, owner of Heathrow and Gatwick airports, tomorrow opens its first "factory" outlet shopping mall on the Continent, at Troyes, 100 miles southeast of Paris. The move follows the opening earlier this year by BAA of an

American-style outlet at Cheshire Oaks, near Chester.

Factory outlets usually sell end-of-season designer labels, stock overruns and slight seconds from big names at prices about 30 per cent lower than on high streets.

BAA has linked with the American operator McArthur

Glenn to develop shopping villages throughout Europe.

The criterion is that outlets must be near major roads for easy motorway access. The Chester outlet attracted more than 60,000 shoppers on its first weekend. Sales have since been about 50 per cent above target.

Kerala welcomes charters

By WILLY NEWLANDS

THE southernmost tip of India makes its bid this winter to become an important holiday destination, when charter flights by two British airlines start operating to Thiruvananthapuram, in Kerala. However, planners in the state emphasise that they do not want to become another Goa.

The Indian Government has been slow to welcome international charter flights and package holidaymakers. Goa is the only area currently open to mass-market tourism. Kerala's Secretary of Tourism, K. Jayakumar, says: "We have about 100,000 overseas visitors a year, arriving on scheduled flights, but we are aiming for half a million. The UK is our biggest market."

"Kerala, which already hosts more than one million Indian holidaymakers every



Southern attraction: the backwaters near Cochin at sunset

year, plus many more pilgrims, is ready to develop beach hotels with major chains such as Taj, Oberoi and Lila Beach. We shall break out of the backpacker cycle." One of the main problems for tourist development has been finding virgin sites on which to build hotels.

Kerala is India's most literate and most densely populated state, and cities such as Cochin were among the first visited by Western traders. But most of its recent prosperity has come from earnings sent home by its workers in the Gulf.

E. M. Najeeb, of the Great

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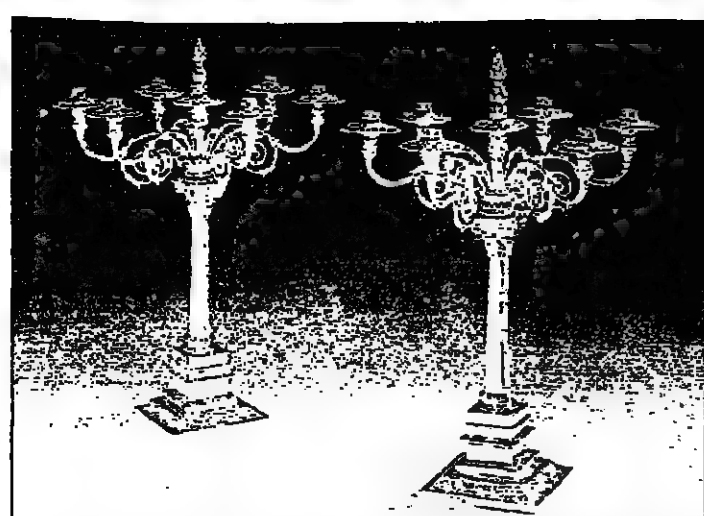
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Joseph Connolly attempts the difficult, yet delightful, task of spotting the best buys at the next big antiques show



Regency candelabra made by William Fountain, 1812: £48,000

CLOSE-UP ON ALBERT'S CROWNING GLORY

A FREQUENT delight of antiques fairs is an attendant satellite exhibition that gives visitors the chance to see something unusual. This autumn, the opportunity is unique — four 8ft tall bronzes by the Victorian sculptor J. Redfern depicting the Christian virtues Faith, Hope, Charity and Humility. For the past 120 years, these statues have sat near the summit of the Albert Memorial, well beyond the scope of study to all but birds and bird watchers. The memorial is undergoing a £14 million restoration at the hands of English Heritage, which has authorised the loan — along with some of the highly intricate lead work. The exhibition is particularly appropriate to this year's show because its venue, the Royal College of Art, is directly opposite the memorial itself. Because one tends to think of the Albert Memorial as one huge, encrusted stalagmite, it comes as something of a shock to learn that these massive bronzes are just four of 200 separate sculptures that adorn the memorial, all of which, in common with the structure itself, are to be restored and replaced in time for the grand re-opening in 1999.

A world of pleasure for the enthusiast

For dealers and collectors alike, the autumn Lapada Fine Art and Antiques Show is always a keenly awaited event in the calendar. But this year's show at the Royal College of Art is likely to be exceptional in terms of both the quality and range on offer.

Lapada is the UK's largest association of professional art and antique dealers, and this year more than 60 of its 750 members will be showing a dizzying array of fine objects and paintings spanning just about every field of serious collecting. Not so serious, however, that all the prices are in the stratosphere. Some curios will cost as little as £35, along with pieces whose prices reach into six figures.

Lapada's attitude to collecting is that would-be enthusiasts should be attracted to the world of antiques in general, and the Lapada fair in particular, rather than be put off by jargon, unachievable prices and the mystique that for centuries less enlightened individual dealers have taken care to reinforce.

Lapada's Code of Practice suggests that it should be fun to track down an elusive piece for the home or collection but that at the same time the buyer should have complete confidence in the provenance

and description of what he or she is buying, as well as in the fairness of the price.

So Lapada ensures that each item on show is carefully and independently vetted for authenticity. Written invoices, with brief descriptions, are supplied and every piece is guaranteed to be precisely what the dealer says it is. In the unlikely event of an error, full refunds are automatic. Other services offered by the association include a free computerised system to enable buyers or sellers to locate a suitable specialist dealer nationwide, as well as valuations and authentications — or, in the case of export, a Certificate of Age, as well

as the names of professional and authorised shippers.

As ever with a show of such scope and quality, it is difficult — although a delight — to pick out highlights and favourites... glass flasks and scent bottles dating from the 2nd century or a superb South Italian Apulian bell krater, a beautifully painted black urn with handles of 500 years earlier? Vanessa Purcell Antiques is offering them, at prices ranging from £2,500 for the urn down to £100.

Or you can come forward to the Victorian era and admire an oak serving table (c.1855) attributed to E.W. Pugin, son of the master of Gothic revival, A.W.N. Pugin, who designed the Houses of Parliament. This piece is available from The Country Seat, run by Harvey Ferry, the chairman of the Lapada show, at £10,000, and picks up rather nicely on one of the main themes of this year's show: Victorian Gothic.

There is a vast range of covetable items from the store of British, European, and oriental treasures. They span textiles, silver, oak, country and town furniture, carpets, drawings, bronzes, jewellery, pottery, glass, porcelain and a large variety of paintings. One 1884 painting — price £4,750 from Anthony Beaumont Fine Oil Paint-



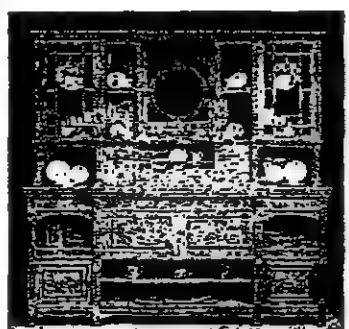
South Italian Apulian vase, from the 4th to 3rd century: £2,500

ings — takes its charming title and subject matter from Dickens's *Martin Chuzzlewit*: "Rustling among last year's leaves whose scent was memory, Mr. Pecksniff strolled".

I particularly like a pair of George III silver six-branch candelabra — £48,000 from Marks Antiques. More accessible is a large selection of Windsor chairs: 25 from the 19th century and 16 from the 18th, costing £3,500 from Bugle

Antiques. In addition to all these there is a wealth of those unclassifiable little wonders variously called "decorative accessories", "objets d'art" and "collectables". What more could a collector wish for?

The Lapada Show is at the Royal College of Art, Kensington Gore, London SW7, next week, from Tuesday to Sunday, 11am to 8pm weekdays and 11am to 6pm weekends. Tickets are £10 single and £16 double.



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Lewis risks everything by meeting Morrison

FROM SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT IN ATLANTIC CITY

LENNOX LEWIS embarks on the most dangerous assignment of his career here on Saturday when he meets Tommy Morrison, of the United States, who is studiously avoided by all leading contenders unless a world championship is at stake.

Lewis, determined to remind the world that he is one of its top three heavyweights, along with Riddick Bowe and Mike Tyson, has been forced into this non-title bout with one of the heaviest punchers in the world as a result of boxing politics. The bout is one of a series organised by HBO (Home Box Office, the American cable television service) to find the best heavyweights in the world after the decision by the three leading world bodies — the World Boxing Council (WBC), the World Boxing Association (WBA) and the International Boxing Federation (IBF) — not to rank Bowe, who is universally acclaimed as No 1 heavyweight.

Because of the WBC's delay in enforcing its own ruling giving Lewis the right of first challenge for Frank Bruno's WBC title, Lewis has had to enter the HBO tournament. He is not prepared to sit back and do nothing — as some have — for fear of losing their place in the championship queue.

The bout with Morrison should have taken place 18 months ago, when both Lewis and Morrison were champions, but then Morrison surprisingly lost his WBO title to Michael Bennet. That defeat cost Lewis the chance to make \$8.5 million (about £5.5 million) and Morrison \$8.1 million. They have both taken cuts of \$6 million for the pleasure of meeting each other now.

If Lewis loses, his chance to regain the championship from Bruno will be gone forever. As Frank Maloney, Lewis's manager, said yesterday: "Whoever loses has nowhere to go. They've both got so much to lose. This fight will be over in

four rounds — one way or another."

However, as Morrison is a harder puncher and a better boxer than Oliver McCall, who stopped Lewis in two rounds, a win now could silence those who say that Lewis is "gun shy".

Lewis said: "I'm in a situation where I can't win. People who are telling me to knock out McCall are the same people who are telling me now to be cautious, but if I'm careful for a couple of rounds, they say I am gun shy."

"Nobody likes losing, but I think that defeat will eventually be a blessing for me. It's made me even more determined to succeed. I can't stand those fighters who go around avoiding each other. One thing you won't be able to say about Lennox Lewis is that he avoided people."

Lewis, who arrived here on Monday after six weeks' training in the Pocono Mountains in Pennsylvania, added: "I'm fighting for respect. That's why I'm taking fights like this. Tommy has improved a hell of a lot, but I've improved as well with Emanuel Steward."

Steward said that Lewis had been sparring with unbeaten heavyweights, trying to make a name for himself at Lewis's expense in the gym. They had come with their cornermen, who exhorted them to go all out. "These guys are pretty lively," Steward said. "They have been specially chosen because Morrison can be very quick."

Steward also revealed that Lewis had been using 30oz gloves specially made for him to strengthen his arms even more and give him extra speed when he wears 10oz gloves in the bout. Steward has also improved Lewis's balance and shortened his punches, especially the long right that landed him in trouble when he missed with it against McCall.

Steward said: "Everybody is going to be surprised to find out how much better Lennox is. After nine months with Manny, it has all knitted together."

Even though the WBC is under pressure from Don King to give first challenge for Bruno's title to Tyson, Maloney believes that it will honour its pledge to Lewis to give him first right of challenge. The British Boxing Board of Control is backing Lewis and, no doubt armed with the minutes of the last WBC convention last October, board members will go to the convention in Bangkok next month to ensure that the WBC does not change its mind.



Lewis demands respect



Douglas Carruthers, of Lyle & Scott, tees off on the 4th at Dalmahoy Golf and Country Club yesterday. Photograph: Marc Aspland

Co-operation ensures trip to La Manga

By MEL WELLS

DALMAHOY was at its beautiful, immaculate but demanding best yesterday for the Scotland and North-East regional final of The Times Mees Pierson Corporate Golf Challenge and, by and large, the scores reflected it. The notable exceptions were the winners, who took on the East course and beat it in the worst of the weather.

The Co-operative Insurance Society booked a place in the national final, to be played at La Manga in southeast Spain in November, with a cohesive display of teamwork that was assisted by a large slice of local knowledge.

Jim Ewing is a 14-handicap member of the host club and his three team-mates admitted that his help with lines on the greens was an important

factor in their posting a score of 90 Stableford points, three ahead of Seaford's Travel.

They needed help, too. Some of the pin placements were cruel and accurate play off the tee was a prerequisite for the best — and sometimes the only effective — line into the greens. The men from the Co-op got it right more often than most.

None of the winning quartet was in sparkling individual form, but the byword for their victory was teamwork. "It was teamwork," Mark Buxton, the team captain, said. "With one exception, somebody always came in with a score at every hole."

The team's only failure came at the 206-yard, par-three 7th, their 10th having started at the 10th, where nobody hit the green and nobody got up and down. By



this point, they were gathering themselves for a final assault, and a lesser team might well have become deflated by the meagre two points they gleaned.

Not the Co-op. They bounced back with six points at the 8th and finished with a solid five on the last. "The 8th was an important hole for us," Mark Hook, who, with Roy Hogg, made up the team, said. "We knew we had to recover pretty quickly or else

any chance we might have had would be gone."

The team were set on their way by a brilliant start, scoring 19 points in the first three holes. Buxton hit a three-wood to 18 inches on the 10th and made the putt for a birdie four for three points, and then Hogg sank a long putt for another birdie four, which, with the benefit of the stroke he received, became an eagle three and four points.

A five-pointer followed at the 11th, and then a second seven-point haul at the 12th, played slightly down the powerful wind, completed a morale-boosting start. Ewing, the local man, found a novel way to play the hole — drive and embarrassingly thinned wedge shot to two and a half feet. The putt for a birdie three by the unshaken Ewing — "three points is all that mat-

ters," he said — gave the team a net four-point start on the hole. Buxton's three points completed a satisfyingly healthy opening.

They continued in much the same vein, and they reached the turn with 46 points, better by three than the nearest opposition. Then, with the wind and rain driving in at them, they came home with 44, a score that only one team equalled and nobody bettered all day.

RESULTS: 1st, Co-operative Insurance Society Ltd 97; 2nd, Seaford's Travel 94; 3rd, The Times Mees Pierson Corporate Golf Challenge Ltd 91; 4th, Seaford's Travel 88; 5th, Seaford's Travel 85; 6th, Seaford's Travel 82; 7th, Seaford's Travel 79; 8th, Seaford's Travel 76; 9th, Seaford's Travel 73; 10th, Seaford's Travel 70; 11th, Seaford's Travel 67; 12th, Seaford's Travel 64; 13th, Seaford's Travel 61; 14th, Seaford's Travel 58; 15th, Seaford's Travel 55; 16th, Seaford's Travel 52; 17th, Seaford's Travel 49; 18th, Seaford's Travel 46; 19th, Seaford's Travel 43; 20th, Seaford's Travel 40; 21st, Seaford's Travel 37; 22nd, Seaford's Travel 34; 23rd, Seaford's Travel 31; 24th, Seaford's Travel 28; 25th, Seaford's Travel 25; 26th, Seaford's Travel 22; 27th, Seaford's Travel 19; 28th, Seaford's Travel 16; 29th, Seaford's Travel 13; 30th, Seaford's Travel 10; 31st, Seaford's Travel 7; 32nd, Seaford's Travel 4; 33rd, Seaford's Travel 1; 34th, Seaford's Travel 0.

Langer could yet gatecrash Scottish party

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN DUBLIN

IN THE absence of a distinguished Spanish pair, two swashbuckling Scots chasing the same prize are more than enough to add lustre to the Mercedes German Masters, which starts at the Motzenberg Golf and Country Club, just south of Berlin, today.

Severiano Ballesteros, the defending champion, has withdrawn to Pedraza to succour his genius and José María Olazábal gave up the unequal battle with his bad foot and pulled out on medical advice. However, Sergio Gomez, Olazábal's manager, said yesterday that his man intends to play in the Dunhill Cup and the Volvo Masters.

Colin Montgomerie requested, and

received, a last-minute invitation to Berlin. "The only reason I'm here is because of a certain Sam Torrance," Montgomerie said. "We've both got our goals. Mine is to win the order of merit three times in a row and Sam's never won it before."

Torrance, still sporting a post-Ryder Cup grin, confessed to raising an eyebrow at Montgomerie's late inclusion. "It just goes to show how seriously he's taking it," Torrance, whose dearest ambition it is to be Europe's No 1, said.

Montgomerie shared third place in the Smurfit European Open in Kildare, to hop back to the top of the Volvo Order of Merit with £626,651.40, just £980.12 ahead of Torrance. The pence could be important, for this tourna-

ment and the Volvo Masters at Valderrama in three weeks' time are the last events to count.

When Bernhard Langer stole the European Open from Barry Lane last Sunday, holding a putt the length of a cricket pitch and more to force a play-off, Langer also gave himself an outside chance of being No 1 for the first time since 1984.

He is £128,687.23 behind Montgomerie, but victory here would net him another £108,330 and, at Valderrama, where Langer won last year, the top prize is £125,000. Langer, who has registered nine of his 34 European victories in Germany, is hard to beat anywhere, but, at home, he positively thrives.

He has played in 13 events to

Torrance's 24 and Montgomerie's 18, but said that he had not entered for the Volvo Masters yet and that to be European No 1 for the third time was not important to his career at present.

"I'm in all the majors and all the tournaments I can be in," Langer said. He is not averse to winning, however, and his reaction to that putt in Ireland was far from stoical. His brother, Erwin, the co-promoter of this event, saw it on television and remarked that he had never seen such a display of emotion from him.

The only United States Ryder Cup player here this week is Tom Lehman. He, and the likes of Ian Woosnam, Michael Campbell and Robert Allenby, should ensure the top trio have to work hard to add to their money.

Masterful Induráin triumphs

MIGUEL INDURÁIN, who won his fifth successive Tour de France this year, won his first cycling world championship, taking the time-trial title over a 43-kilometre course between Paipa and Tunja, north of Bogotá (Peter Bryan writes).

The Spaniard, whose superiority against the clock in Europe contributed to his Tour successes, did what he was expected — and needed — to do in the event, known in the cycling world as the "Race of Truth". He covered the switchback course, which rose to an altitude of 2,850 metres, in 55min 30.4sec, to assume the world crown from Chris Boardman, of Britain, who won the inaugural championship last year in Sicily.

The sting in the tail came yesterday in the final kilometre, a short, sharp climb that lost riders precious seconds — among them Graeme Obree, of Britain, the world pursuit champion. He struggled on the fierce ascent and was left gasping for breath. He finished in 61min 6.1sec, failing to gain a place in the top ten. Obree had not recovered from the effort he made to win his world title a week ago, suffering from a heavy cold and appearing uncomfortable on the hilly course.

Induráin, on the other hand, starting last of the riders, appeared to float over the hills, rarely getting out of the saddle. Abraham Olano, of Spain, fifth last year, came second yesterday, in 48.7sec. Induráin will attempt to win the world road race championship on Sunday.

Law Report October 5 1995

Injury relevant in assault sentences

Regina v Nottingham Crown Court. Ex parte Director of Public Prosecutions. Before Lord Justice Stuart-Smith and Mr Justice Buxtonfield. [Judgment July 13]

It was a cardinal principle of sentencing that the court should take into account the consequences to the victim when considering the gravity of the offence and the appropriate sentence.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court held in making a declaration, sought by the Director of Public Prosecutions, that the approach of Judge Fitcher, sitting with lay justices at Nottingham Crown Court when hearing an appeal against sentence from Worktop Justices, that on a charge of common assault, injuries sustained by the victim would not be taken into account in sentencing, was erroneous in point of law.

Mr Jeremy Carter-Manning, QC, Mr Stephen Richards and Miss Philippa McAussey for the applicant Mr Robert Jay for the respondents.

LORD JUSTICE STUART-SMITH said that in sentencing the Queen's Bench Divisional Court had held in making a declaration, sought by the Director of Public Prosecutions, that the approach of Judge Fitcher, sitting with lay justices at Nottingham Crown Court when hearing an appeal against sentence from Worktop Justices, that on a charge of common assault, injuries sustained by the victim would not be taken into account in sentencing, was erroneous in point of law.

His approach was indicated in the decision of the crown court which recorded: "Common assault does not include injuries when sentence is given, therefore the bench reduces the sentence."

The burden of the Crown Prosecution Service's case was that there was a divergence of practice between different courts in the

country and uncertainty in the CPS itself as to what course they were to pursue.

The principal question was whether the prosecution having elected to charge the lesser offence, the court was precluded from considering the consequences to the victim of the assault simply because a more serious charge could have been brought.

Assault by beating necessarily involved some blows struck upon the victim, but resulting injury was not a necessary ingredient of the offence, although it had to be rare for a blow of any severity not to cause some harm.

In his Lordship's judgment, it was a cardinal principle of sentencing that the court should take into account the consequences to the victim of the offence, the consequences to the victim.

That was because one of the purposes of the criminal law was

to assuage the feelings of victims and their friends and relations.

The law had to redress their grievance by inflicting an appropriate punishment and then there was no reason for the victim or his friends to exact their own retribution.

Moreover, it was not necessary in all cases to add a count to the indictment to reflect such conduct provided that the court's sentencing powers were adequate to reflect the actual gravity of the offending.

That principle was exemplified in a number of guideline cases on sentencing for example, Attorney-General's Reference (No 1 of 1989) [1989] 1 W.L.R. 1177 and R v Russell [1991] 1 W.L.R. 1177.

The applicant was entitled to the declaration.

Mr Justice Buxtonfield agreed. Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, East Midlands Area, Treasury Solicitor.

Appealing over special needs

S v Special Educational Needs Tribunal and Another. An appeal in the High Court from the Special Educational Needs Tribunal was to be brought by one of the parents of the child affected, and not by a next friend in the name of the child himself.

Mr Justice Latham so held in the Queen's Bench Division on July 25 when dismissing the appeal of the appellant, S, brought by his mother as next friend, from the decision of the first respondent, the Special Educational Needs Tribunal, of February 2 to dismiss S's appeal against an amended statement of special educational needs

made by the second respondent, Westminster City Council. MR JUSTICE LATHAM said there were only two real parties in an appeal such as this, the parents on the one hand and the local education authority on the other.

It followed that only the parents or the local education authority might appeal a decision of the High Court pursuant to section 11(1) of the Tribunal of Education Act 1992.

There was therefore no jurisdiction for the court to hear the notice of motion which brought the case and the notice of motion was dismissed for want of jurisdiction.

FOR THE RECORD

ADMINISTRATIVE International match: England 2 China 3 (England names lost; 1st round; 2nd round; 3rd round; 4th round; 5th round; 6th round; 7th round; 8th round; 9th round; 10th round; 11th round; 12th round; 13th round; 14th round; 15th round; 16th round; 17th round; 18th round; 19th round; 20th round; 21st round; 22nd round; 23rd round; 24th round; 25th round; 26th round; 27th round; 28th round; 29th round; 30th round; 31st round; 32nd round; 33rd round; 34th round; 35th round; 36th round; 37th round; 38th round; 39th round; 40th round; 41st round; 42nd round; 43rd round; 44th round; 45th round; 46th round; 47th round; 48th round; 49th round; 50th round; 51st round; 52nd round; 53rd round; 54th round; 55th round; 56th round; 57th round; 58th round; 59th round; 60th round; 61st round; 62nd round; 63rd round; 64th round; 65th round; 66th round; 67th round; 68th round; 69th round; 70th round; 71st round; 72nd round; 73rd round; 74th round; 75th round; 76th round; 77th round; 78th round; 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RISING PERCENTAGE OF HORSES WHO GIVE TROUBLE AT STARTING STALLS



The annual percentage of horses who delay races by causing problems at the starting stalls has increased considerably over the last seven years

Club aims to stall starting problems

A MUCH-NEEDED crack-down on unruly horses who often delay races by causing trouble at the starting stalls is being planned by the Jockey Club. The proposed 'tougher measures' follow an unprecedented rise in the number of horses who have proved difficult to load or have become unsettled once in the stalls.

In 1988, the Starter's Book, which keeps a log of the awkward or potentially difficult animals, contained names of 1,376 horses — or 19.33 per cent of those in training. By last year that figure had risen by more than 40 per cent to 1,955 — or 28.73 per cent of those in training.

This season has seen the trend continue with more horses compared to last year

already having been withdrawn, or reported to racecourse stewards for failing to enter stalls, damaging stalls once inside, and delaying the start of races.

The extent of the problem means that horses which have been properly schooled at home by their trainers are often at a disadvantage because they are loaded first and have to stand longer in the stalls. The better behaved horses are also put at risk of being upset or injured by difficult horses alongside them.

In addition, a trainer who has not schooled his horse effectively will frequently find the work is done for him on the racecourse by the stalls men.

Richard Evans reports on plans to take tougher measures against unruly starters

The extent of the problem, which has resulted in several big races — notably the Stewards' Cup at Goodwood — suffering lengthy delays, led to Robert Waley-Cohen, the Jockey Club's racecourse steward, chairing a meeting at Newmarket last week, attended by trainers and starters, when a blueprint for change was agreed.

The wide-ranging proposals, which will now go before the Jockey Club for approval, would impose new demands on trainers with the threat of stiffer fines for bad offenders. The design of stalls will also be

examined with the probability of modifications being made to existing equipment.

The Waley-Cohen recommendations include the introduction of "competence examinations" before granting a training licence, which would include training horses to the stalls. All training stalls would be specially tagged to identify which trainers use them and unannounced spot checks on trainers would be introduced to ensure the stalls were always available.

The existing bland requirements make no mention of what is expected of a properly

schooled horse. New criteria state that a horse must load into the stalls without hesitation, ideally without the aid of pushers but, if necessary, with the help of a maximum of two people. A horse should be able to stand in the stalls alone or with a horse either side for at least two minutes, and must have experience of being blindfolded prior to stalls entry.

On the racecourse, trainers would be given a verbal warning backed up by a written "yellow card" if the starter deemed a horse as a borderline case and the horse would have to be reschooled. The starter would also have increased flexibility in reporting troublesome horses to racecourse stewards.

At the end of each season, Weatherbys will be asked to publish a list of horses in the Starter's Book against the offending trainers' names, while trainers will be required to keep a record of schooling horses in stalls.

The new proposals are backed up by stiffer penalties, with fines up to £500, for trainers of horses who have been reported by the starter and subsequently fail a stalls test.

RaceTech, which operates the stalls on racecourses, has been asked to examine the ideal design for stalls after frequent criticism that the British version is too narrow and has too many protrusions. Where possible "feasible modifications" will be carried out.

Europe unites for Cup day

By RICHARD EVANS

A EUROPEAN version of the Breeders' Cup will be staged for the first time in September 1997 — probably in Germany — with minimum prize-money of £2 million.

European Racing Day, as it is likely to be called, will become an annual event, rotating between the five member countries of the European Pattern Committee — France, Germany, Great Britain, Ireland and Italy — who agreed to the event in Paris on Tuesday.

The day's racing will be built around four group one or championship races and two handicaps of limited weight range. "The group one races will comprise as many existing events as possible from the country concerned but the committee

will also examine the creation of new events especially for the day, plus the promotion to group one for one year only, of existing pattern races of lesser status.

"For this reason, it is planned that the day will be based upon an existing fixture rather than being an entirely new fixture."

When it comes to Britain's turn to stage the event, the Ascot Festival or the St Leger meeting at Doncaster would appear to be the ideal venue. However, Germany is favourite to stage the inaugural meeting after it was acknowledged that it would be beneficial if France and Britain held back.

It is hoped that the European Racing Day will also entice new people to racing in the same way Racecourse

Holdings Trust (RHT) hopes to attract student racers with a new scheme announced yesterday.

RHT owns or operates a dozen racecourses, and during this autumn and next spring it will stage special race-day packages for students at their local universities and colleges.

The packages will include free or heavily discounted entry to the racecourse, free travel to and from the track, exclusive racecourse facilities, but prices reduced to near student union levels and a host to introduce first time racers to racing.

David Hillyard, RHT's managing director, said: "This initiative is aimed at students who have, as yet, little knowledge of or interest in racing."

WINGCANTON

THUNDERER
2.10 Indian Temple. 2.40 The Nigella. 3.10 Cavins. 3.40 Great Gesto. 4.10 Dominant's Dream. 4.40 Simlar.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 4.40 Simlar.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (FIRM IN PLACES) SIS

2.10 OAK CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP CHASE (22.100: 2m) (11 runners)

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The sporting heroism that needs no hype

Clanton does it with style; Maradona does it with difficulty. Ballesteros vows that he will keep on doing it until he is 54; and every weekend-athlete dreams of doing it someday. It is the great sporting comeback.

Suddenly, the comeback is everywhere. You can hardly glance through a weekend's results without seeing the evidence. Liz McColgan romps away with the Great North Run despite being written off as an athlete by a team of doctors. Mike Tyson emerges from a jail sentence to write off a mediocre opponent in the first round. Monica Seles recovers from the trauma of having a knife stuck in her back by a demented tennis fan to win the Canadian Open without dropping a set. The comebacks are hyped, dramatised, and they make the turnstiles spin.

There certainly seems to be something deep in the soul of every player and every spectator that betrays a yearning to turn the clock back. It is not just the 32-year-old would-be medical students in Glasgow who long to be 17 again. In order to get out there and give of his best, every true

sportsman clings to the fiction that the best performance is yet to come.

For the spectator, the comeback is compelling. Can the old favourite recapture glories past? Will the legs work? Will the nerve hold? The fascination is such that in some sports we've created a whole new artificial comeback culture. In tennis and golf, there are "senior" tournaments with big rewards for age-group competition. Gary Player reckons to have made more money this way than ever he did in his prime.

The ageing sports fan, of course, loves this. The successful comeback will have those little flames of hope leaping in the heart. The player who's had an enforced break from his sport because he's hit the bottle or kicked the crowd is the one you can relate to. If he can come back, perhaps you can too.

But all too many sporting comebacks are rubbish. Who can believe that anything but money lured Joe Bugner back into the boxing ring at 45? And for all its hype, the Clanton comeback was really no more than the first game back by a professional after a suspension. For a real come-



back, you need more than that. But when the comeback is genuine, it is compelling.

Seles, laid low for 2½ years by a knife wound that did as much damage to her mind as to her body, picked up the pieces of her career on the international tennis circuit as if she had never been away. The great jockey, Bob Champion, defying the after-effects of cancer, rode Aldaniti to an unforgettable victory in the 1981 Grand National. Right now, Chris Boardman, the Olympic champion cyclist, is putting the finishing touches to a comeback

struggle that began the day he crashed out of the Tour de France on the opening stage in July. He was left with a fractured wrist and a double fracture of the ankle, but he will be racing again within weeks.

These are the comebacks that inspire, that keep you at it when you fear your own playing days are long gone. You can argue long and hard about which is the greatest comeback of all. The truth is that the greatest comebacks have little to do with hype. The one that really inspires, the one you should replay in your head when you pull your battered trainers on to your even more battered feet, is that of Louis Zamperini. Zamperini is an all-time-forgotten American athlete who ran the 5,000 metres in the 1936 Olympics, and was remembered by his United States team-mates as the man who stole the swastika from Hitler's Chancellor in Berlin. He retired from his sport in 1940.

As an Army Air Force captain during the Second World War, he crashed in the Pacific and spent 47 days adrift alone in a small rubber lifeboat. He was officially declared dead, but was captured and

spent 2½ years as a Japanese prisoner of war. As a propaganda stunt, the Japanese forced Zamperini, suffering badly from near starvation, to compete against Japanese runners who were well fed and in good condition. "I had no desire for competing," he said, "but I was given to understand that if I didn't run not only I, but the whole camp, would suffer. My pride was not worth that."

And once started around that little oval I felt this was my game — even my business — and pride returned. So much pride returned that Zamperini overtook the Japanese shortly before the finish, and his captors desperately kept the race going hoping he would eventually tire. But the American didn't give up easily — and as the Japanese fell further and further behind they eventually had to call the race off.

So, triumph for Zamperini in the unlikely comeback of all time. His reward for victory? No big cheques, no headlines, no ballyhoo. Just a beating from his guards.

JOHN BRYANT

Britain seeking unprecedented trophy treble without leading light



Siddall, having slipped 119 places in the world rankings during her debilitating illness, faces an uphill struggle to revive her career. Photograph: Marc Aspland

Siddall sets out on road to recovery

SHIRLI-ANN SIDBALL should this morning have been representing Great Britain and attempting to win the Maureen Connolly Trophy, the annual under-21 tennis event against the United States, for an unprecedented third year in a row. Instead, she will still be trying to resurrect her career.

The last time she appeared in public, during the Wimbledon championships, she found the experience "scary". Then the nation's No 2, she was frightened not by the weight of domestic expectation but by "a paper bag" which had been placed over her mouth. At the time, she was on a stretcher.

Her premature and undignified departure from the mixed doubles was seen as comical by the foreign observers. How could a player suffer, they asked, from heat exhaustion in Britain? But Siddall

was the victim of a complaint that, three months later, has yet to be satisfactorily diagnosed.

Early in the third set, she had warned her partner, Danny Sapsford, that she was having trouble breathing. By the time the trainer arrived at the court, she was racked with cramp, hyperventilating and believed she was about to faint. She was unable either to continue or to leave on foot. Although she had recovered by nightfall, she was ordered not to drive home.

The examinations began the following day. The first, a seemingly primitive test for asthma, required her to run round a hospital for ten minutes. The exercise, straightforward for a professional athlete, left her exhausted.

Neither a specialist studying fatigue at the British Olympic centre nor a neurologist could detect the source of



Stuart Jones on a young tennis player whose exhausting illness has defied attempts at diagnosis

the problem other than to suggest that she might have contracted a virus.

The illness came hard on the heels of a sequence of injuries. Torn ankle ligaments prevented her from competing at Edgbaston and Eastbourne in the build-up to Wimbledon and a physiotherapist, later examining her strained shoulder, advised her to rest after the championships. She has had no choice.

Attempts at practising lasted for a few minutes before she felt enveloped by weariness. Habitually falling asleep in the afternoons, she recalls "the worst day" when, at home in Bournemouth, she could not even complete a walk

around the local supermarket with her father, Ted.

With no medicinal cure available, she was inactive for two months before she felt strong enough to resume. Initially for only half an hour at her club in north London. She had missed virtually the whole of the season on grass, her favourite surface, on which much of her ranking was based.

She had climbed to No 262 in the world, second among British competitors only to Clare Wood. She has fallen to No 381, lower than all but one of the five representatives selected for the Maureen Connolly Trophy, and yet to strike a competitive ball

since being carried out of Wimbledon, could not be considered.

Siddall will be ineligible next year and so will retire from the competition with only one blemish on her record. Her lone singles defeat in three years was inflicted by Audra Keller, then ranked No 90 in the world, in Memphis in 1992, the last time the United States claimed the trophy.

They won by the narrow margin, 6-5, and their team featured the 20-year-old Amy Frazier, who this year knocked Natasha Zvereva and Mary Pierce out of the US Open. The Americans have since weakened their challenge. Indeed, the players forming their quintet are unknown.

Marissa Catlin, Traci Green, Kristin Sanderson, Varazee Surephong and Farkey Taylor will all be making their debuts. So will the leader

of the British team, Lizzie Jelfs, last year's national junior champion from Banbury and now ranked No 1, four places above Wood.

She is 19. So is Mandy Wainwright, who is picked for the fourth time and will be in action twice on the first of three days at the Scotstoun Leisure Centre, which was opened only six months ago, in Glasgow. She follows Lucie Ahl and precedes Jelfs in the singles.

Wainwright will then partner the other newcomer, Kate Warne-Holland, in the doubles. Karen Cross is the fifth member of the British team competing in the 11 rubbers. Next month, when they enter the national championships at Telford, Siddall intends to be there with them.

TODAY'S DRAW: L. Ahl v F. Taylor; A. Wainwright v M. Catlin; L. Jelfs v K. Sanderson; Wainwright and K. Warne-Holland v Catlin and V. Surephong.

Boston bat protest proves unfounded

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

ALBERT BELLE did as much as anyone to edge the Cleveland Indians into a one-game lead over the Boston Red Sox at the start of their American League baseball play-off, but he had to pass an unexpected test off the field as well as on it.

Belle's home run in the eleventh inning was the springboard for the Indians' 5-4 win in Cleveland, but it also sparked a protest from Boston, who demanded that Belle's bat be confiscated — recalling the seven-game suspension Belle served last season for using a corked bat in a match at Chicago. Thus, after his strike had tied the scores at 4-4, Tim Welke, the home plate umpire, had the bat taken away.

Belle, however, who hit 50 home runs this year, including a record 17 in September, was

vindicated. The bat was cut open by officials early yesterday and cleared. "Bobby Brown [the former American League president] had it cut in two and he knows what he can do with those two pieces," Belle said. Tony Pena's thirteenth-inning home run assured Cleveland of victory.

David Cone pitched New York to a 1-0 lead in the best-of-five series in the other American League contest as they beat the Seattle Mariners 9-6. In Denver, the rookie, Chipper Jones, hit his second home run of the game in the ninth inning to secure the Atlanta Braves' 5-4 victory over the Colorado Rockies in the first game of their National League play-off. In the other National League opener, the Cincinnati Reds beat the Los Angeles Dodgers 7-2.

Relentless Hendry beats complacency

FROM PHIL YATES IN BANGKOK

STEPHEN HENDRY'S main problem at the Thailand Classic could be complacency. The world snooker champion enjoyed such superiority during a 5-0 quarter-final victory over Terry Griffiths here yesterday that he surprised himself.

"I never make statements about whether I'll win a particular event or not, but I'm very confident," Hendry said. He required only 70 minutes at the table to register his fifteenth successive victory over Griffiths and, although Hendry had inflicted a number of heavy defeats on the Welshman, notably a 10-1 drubbing in the final of the 1989 Regal Scottish Masters, it would be difficult to imagine a match with a greater air of inevitability than this encounter.

Hendry out-scored Griffiths

379-92. He potted unerringly, displaying a recklessness even tempo while compiling breaks of 40, 83, 60 and 68. The only frame in which Griffiths challenged was the fifth, which Hendry won with a yellow to pink clearance.

Six months ago, after losing in the Thailand Open, Hendry said that as his career went on, it was becoming harder to become motivated week-in, week-out. While still regarding that as a fact of life, his form is keeping mental staleness at bay.

"Although I'm not as psyched-up for this tournament as I was for the Regal Masters a couple of weeks ago, I've got so much confidence in my game at the moment that it automatically guarantees a good attitude," he said.

The wheel of misfortune

The New Record. Radio 4, 8.45pm.

Jim is a new hand at driving a bus; he has been at the wheel for only eight months. But he has been at it for 34 years, and is now on the schoolbus circuit. He sounds like an obliging sort of chap. Although he may not believe it when his young fares tell him that they have lost their money, he lets them off with a caution and his well of liberality never seems to run dry. As for Jim, it is a routine occurrence when the bus is kicked by young things. I am surprised that he is surprised that half of his customers never say "Goodbye" or "Thanks" when they get off. I suspect that bus company rivalry is becoming so intense that some drivers refuse to pick up anybody with a free bus pass. It is cash customers only.

Evening Concert. Classic FM, 8.00pm.

In a programme that also includes Copland's Clarinet Concerto and Ireland's Epic March, cinema memories are stirred, even shaken, by two other works. It is impossible to overstate the contribution that Walton's score made to the success of Olivier's *Henry V* and what a surprise it was to hear in this film his version of the *Ballerina*, the wistful song most of us thought we had heard for the first time as one of Cantaloupe's *Songs of the Auvergne*. As for Mussorgsky's *Night on the Bare Mountain*, I only wish I could rid my mind of Disney's *Fantasia*. Mussorgsky's frightening pictures needed to be painted in our imagination, not on the screen.

Peter Daville

RADIO 1	WORLD SERVICE
FM Stereo. 4.00pm Dave Pearce 6.30 Chris Evans 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.30pm Lisa Farnow. Incl. at 12.30-12.45pm Newsbeat; and at 1.15 The Hit 2.00 Nicky Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier. Incl. at 4.40 Judge Judge. and at 5.30-5.45 Newsbeat 7.30 Evening Station 8.00 Soundbite 10.00 Mark Goodier 12.00-4.00pm Claire Burgess	All times in BST. 5.00am Newsbeat 5.30 Europe Today 6.00 Newsbeat 6.30 Europe Today 6.00 News 8.15 Off the Shelf: An Instant in the Wind 8.30 Network UK 9.00 News 9.10 Words of Faith 9.15 Composer of the Month 9.45 Good Books 10.00 News in German 10.15 Sport 11.00 Newsbeat 11.30 BBC English 11.45 Off the Shelf: An Instant in the Wind Noon Newsbeat 12.30pm Shanghai Beat 1.00 News 1.05 Business Report 1.15 Britain Today 1.30 Assignment 2.00 Newsbeat 2.05 News 2.10 Outlook 3.30 Multitrack X-Press 4.00 News in German 4.15 BBC English 4.30 Network UK 5.00 News 5.15 The World Today 6.00 Europe Today 6.30 British Isles Report 6.45 Sport 7.00 Newsbeat 7.30 News in German 8.00 News 8.01 Outlook 8.25 Words of Faith 8.30 John Peel 8.40 Newsbeat 10.00 News 10.05 Business Report 10.15 Britain Today 11.00 Newsbeat 11.30 The World Today 11.45 Sport Midnight News 12.00am Take Five 12.15 Network UK 12.45 Health Matters 1.00 Newsbeat 1.30 On the Move 1.45 Britain Today 2.00 World News 2.10 Press Review 2.15 In the Loop 2.45 Global Concerns 3.00 Newsbeat 3.30 Stories in Verse 4.00 World News 4.15 Sports Roundup 4.30 Faith
RADIO 2	CLASSIC FM
FM Stereo. 5.00pm Sarah Kennedy 6.15 Pause for Thought 7.30 Wogan 8.15 Pause for Thought 8.40 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 2.00pm Debbie Throver 3.30 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 The News Junction 7.30 Bathen 8.00 Paul Jones 8.45 Gospel Train 10.30 Jameson 12.05pm Steve Madden 3.00 Alex Lester	4.00pm Early Breakfast 6.00 Nick Bailey 6.30 Henry Kelly 12.00 Sunday Simons 2.00pm Lunchtime Concerto 3.00 Jamie Cullum 6.00 Newsbeat 6.30 Sorrell 7.00 The Travel Guide 8.00 Evening Concert: Sea Choke 10.00 Michael Magph 1.00am Sally Patterson
RADIO 5 LIVE	VIRGIN RADIO
5.00pm Morning Reports. Incl. at 5.45 Wake Up to Money 6.00 The Breakfast Programme. Incl. at 6.55 and 7.55 Racing Preview 8.35 The Magazine. Incl. at 10.35 Euronews and at 11.00 News: Six Seconds 12.00 Midday with Mel. Incl. at 12.34pm Moneychord and at 1.15 Entertainment News 2.05 Race on Race. Incl. at 3.45 Entertainment News 4.00pm Inevitable Nationwide. Incl. at 5.45 Entertainment News 7.00 News Extra. Incl. 7.30 Sport 7.35 Chris Rice Goes into... 8.05 Women on Top 8.08 Sportsweek 10.05 News Talk 11.00 Night Extra. Incl. at 11.16 The Financial World Tonight 12.00am Night Moves 2.05 Up All Night	6.00pm Russ 'n' Jono 9.00 Richard Skinner 12.00 Graham Dine 4.00pm Nicky Lowe 7.30 Paul Doyle 10.00 Jenny Lee 6.00am Robby Barrie
TALK RADIO	RADIO 3
6.00pm Sandy Warr 7.00 Simon Bates 10.00 Jonathan King 12.00 Tommy Boyd 2.00pm Anna Riechum 4.00 Scott Chisholm and Lowi Turner 7.00 Sean Bolger 9.00 Muz Dee 10.00 James White 1.00-4.00pm Ian Collins	6.30pm Open University: Social Sciences, the World and You 6.35 Weather 7.00 On Air: Beechcroft (Sinfonia in F); Beethoven (Für Elise); Ravel (Tzigane); J.S. Wagner (Siegfried's Rhine Journey, Götterdämmerung); S.24 Purcell Portobello; song selection; S.34 Chabou (String Quartet in G minor, Suite); 9.00 Composer of the Week: J.S. Bach (i) 10.00 Musical Encounters, including Artist of the Week: Virginia Black, harpsichord, plays Scarlatti (Toccata in D minor); 10.03 Kellie Overturn, Wilton (Shakespeare); Mozart (Piano Concerto No 15 in B flat); De la Guerra (Suite in D minor); 11.10 Phil (Fratres for cello and piano); Mendelssohn (Symphony No 4 in A, Italian); 12.00 Voltaire: Wolfe's Ghosts Song (i) 1.00pm The Boston Romantic: Music from late 19th-century Boston, including music by Chadwick, Parker and Sanborn 2.00 Scholastic Radio Showcases 2.05 in the News 2.25 Something to Think About 2.40 Music Worksheets: The Island of the Day Before 3.00 Folkbeat: The Judgement of Paris; John Walton's version of Congreve's Judgement of Paris; Record of three programmes: 4.00 Bernard d'Arcy, piano. Debussy (Préludes, Book 1); 4.05 (Recordings No 6 in D flat, Op 33) (i) 5.00 The Music Machine: Dufay Collective in a performance workshop of Sumi's concert in the Studio Theatre in Warwick Arts Centre

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 43

OKTA (b) Meteorological jargon for an eighth part of the sky, from pedantry for the Greek *okta*. "From January 1, 1949, cloud amount has been observed and reported in oktas or eighths of sky covered, code figure 0 representing a clear sky, 1 representing 1 okta (eighth) of sky covered or less, but not zero, 2 representing two oktas, and so on."

RODNEY (a) Canadian dialect for a small fishing boat or punt, origin indeterminate but clearly Canadian.

RESHT (d) The name of a province and town in northwest Iran, used attributively as a toponym to designate patchwork made there. "There is also a kind of Persian patchwork called Resht. It is really an amazingly ingenious mosaic of cloth, only one thickness being used."

OBOSOM (b) In the religious system of the Ashanti peoples of Ghana, a general name for any of the many gods inferior to the Supreme Being. From the Ashanti. Plural *obosom*.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1... Qd4-2; 2. Rd2 (2. Kd1 Qxd6 is terrible for White); 2... exd4-3; 3. Kd1 Qd1 mate.

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SPORT

THURSDAY OCTOBER 5 1995

Cardiff and Warrington in talks

Davies plans return to land of his fathers

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE return of Jonathan Davies, Welsh rugby union's most lamented exile, to his former love took a step nearer to reality last night. After prolonged negotiations between Warrington, his rugby league employers, and Cardiff, both sides sought breathing space and will return to the table in a week.

Were Davies, 33 this month and on the eve of leading Wales into rugby league's World Cup, to join Cardiff, it would represent not only a shot in the arm for rugby union, but also the most potent symbol of how close the two codes — whose administrators have spent 100 years at each other's throats — have grown within a month.

Since Davies went north in January 1989, joining Widnes from Llanelli for what was then believed to be a record signing on fee approaching £250,000, no man has represented more the withdrawal of a nation from rugby union's world stage. That he has been joined by the best part of a full international XV since does not detract from the mystique attached to his name.

However, since the declaration by the International Rugby Football Board, rugby union's governing body, in Paris in August that the game was to go open, a gangway back for rugby league players has been established. Davies, from Trimsaran, has made no secret of his desire to return to South Wales and now the



Davies: dual captain

opportunity has been created for him both to live there and play the game at which he won 27 caps as Wales's stand-off half.

Yesterday, he spent two hours in discussion with Gareth Davies, the Cardiff chief executive and one of his predecessors in the Wales No 10 jersey. The point at issue is that Jonathan Davies seeks a package that will give him a career when he retires — part of which could involve media work — and also that Cardiff admit that they cannot buy out his contract with Warrington, that does not conclude until 1997.

Later in the day, Gareth Davies met Graham Armstrong, his opposite number at Warrington, who are in mid-table in the Stones Championship. It is rumoured in rugby league circles that Warrington would not be displeased to save the money that now goes

on Jonathan Davies's wages, but the talks, on the day that rugby league's Halifax World Cup was officially launched, reached an impasse.

"We put our cards on the table and told them our ambitions with regard to Jonathan," Gareth Davies said. "The meeting was friendly and amicable, they now know our feelings and are going away to discuss it. The position is that we would like him back in Wales, but they don't want to release him."

"I told them pretty strongly that there is no big money in Wales to buy out rugby league contracts. We can't afford to buy him out. I expect them to come back to me next week and let me know."

However, rugby union, as it has done so often over decades of amateurism, can organise employment to suit an individual. Cardiff are not alone in chasing Davies. Llanelli, one of his former clubs, and Swansea have been in touch and the player said: "I would like to return. At the moment, I am contracted to Warrington, but other people are encouraging me with lots of proposals. It's in other people's hands."

Were the deal to go through, it would represent a tremendous coup for Cardiff, the Heineken League champions, and would assure others — such as Scott Gibbs and Scott Quinnell — that they could do likewise when they were ready. It would also encourage thoughts that the two codes may ultimately merge if players are seen passing comfortably from one to the other.

Speculation that Jonathan Davies, the only man to captain his country at union and league, might yet add to his international rugby union caps in the five nations' championship next year, however, may prove wide of the mark. Capable of playing at stand-off half, centre or full back, he would certainly be a present asset, if not a future investment; first, Cardiff and Warrington must reach agreement before the land of his fathers beckons.



A composed Radlinski, who was named in the England team for their match against Australia on Saturday, faces the media yesterday

England winged by Offiah injury

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

ILLNESS and injury continue to beset the rugby league World Cup hosts. After losing Gary Connolly through pneumonia, England have now been denied the potential match-winning services of Martin Offiah for the opening game, against Australia. John Bentley, of Halifax, who represented England at rugby union in 1988, will fill the left-wing vacancy at Wembley on Saturday.

Offiah's absence is a cruel, but not entirely surprising, setback. He had been declared fit on Monday, yet was unable in training to generate his customary blistering pace because of a persistent calf strain and niggling ankle injury. As Offiah operates best only when his confidence is high, it was felt prudent to allow him time to recover for the tournament's later stages.

Phil Larder, the England coach, is hopeful that Offiah, like Connolly, will play at some stage. "We gave him a very thorough test," he said. "Martin is only at his best when he can get out and he wasn't doing that. He'll definitely miss Wembley and the game with Fiji next Wednesday. It's a blow, but I've every confidence in John Bentley."

Larder has been forced to stray a long way from his original plans, but, as with Bentley, Larder also has faith in the ability of Kris Radlinski, 19, to fill in for Connolly at full back. If he is as assured under the high balls that Australia are bound to test him with on Saturday as he was under media scrutiny yesterday, Radlinski will confirm his potential.

"When we had a problem at prop, he told me he'd play there," Larder said. "The lad's very keen. There are no doubts

in my mind and he has the respect of all the players."

With three tries and the man-of-the-match award in the Premiership final defeat of Leeds last May, the youngster, of Polish descent, came of age this season, whether at centre, full back, or popping up on the wing for Wigan. Radlinski has looked the com-

plete article and, if there are any nerves, they hardly show.

"You've got to play at Wembley sometime, why not against the Aussies?" he said. Radlinski acknowledged that, in any team other than Wigan, he would not have flourished so quickly. "There's the players, the great coaching set-up, but also the town's unique position," he said. "I've grown up in Wigan and unlike other places where it's all football, all kids want to play league for Wigan. You're playing for the best."

In this rarefied atmosphere, Simon Haughton, also 19, has had an even more meteoric rise in the Wigan second row. His place among the substitutes is deliberate. "He's an explosive player, someone who can be injected into the game in the hope of changing the outcome," Larder said.

Chips off the Wigan block, past and present, constitute

the bulk of the side, but whereas Andy Platt and Denis Betts have returned from Auckland into their respective prop and second-row positions, Phil Clarke finds himself pushed up alongside Betts by the outstanding form shown by Andy Farrell, his successor at loose forward at Wigan.

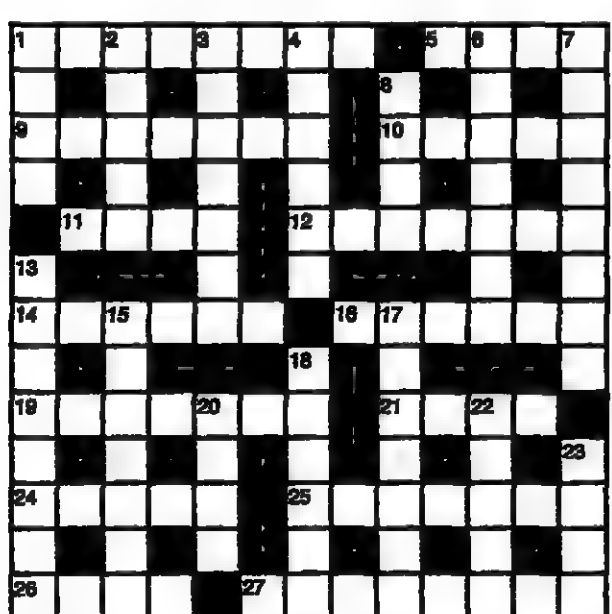
Barrie-Jon Mather takes up what might well have been Radlinski's original position at centre in the series of enforced changes to the back line.

Australia, who name their team today, have their own injury concerns, but Geoff Toovey is expected to shake off neck and shoulder injuries. New Zealand have named two uncapped players, Stacy Jones and Richard Barnett, on the wing for their opening group game, against Tonga, on Sunday.

Betts the warrior, page 43

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 592 in association with BRITISH MIDLAND



ACROSS
1 Suicide-mission pilot, plane (8)
2 Ship body (4)
3 US president, Booth victim (7)
4 Match of local rivalry (5)
5 Tub of water (4)
6 Horn at foot end (7)
7 Provides (with income, qualities) (6)
8 London insurance association (6)
9 Charge for letter (7)
10 Sudden wind (4)
11 Add fuel (to fire) (5)
12 Thomas — 19C essayist/historian (7)
13 Brook, stream (4)
14 Collection of songs of praise (4-4)

DOWN
1 Narrow strait (Scot.) (4)
2 Food from heaven (5)
3 Practical knowledge (4-3)
4 Highest point (6)
5 Ill-prepared; nickname of Ethelred (7)
6 Patriot; Ulster Unionist (8)
7 Border; advantage (4)
8 One feeling contempt (8)
9 Loot, ravage (7)
10 Shackle for lower limbs (3-4)
11 Peevish (6)
12 Mainland (4)
13 Authority; assertion (3-2)
14 Look for (4)

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SOLUTION TO NO 591
ACROSS: 1 Lap-dog 5 Rash 8 Turn 9 Isolator 10 Mismatch
11 Hunk 12 Method 14 Rugged 16 Prop 18 Trollpoe 20 Uprising
21 Monk 22 Mess 23 Esteem
DOWN: 2 Abusive 3 Denim 4 Go into detail 5 Road-hog
6 Stern 7 Mother tongue 13 Hopkins 15 Expense 17 Ruper 19 Limit

United must bolster defence to sustain Premiership challenge

Peter Ball believes that Alex Ferguson needs to dip into the transfer market

WHILE York City were yesterday still celebrating their aggregate victory over the biggest club in the land, Manchester United had the traditional comfort of teams making an early cup exit — the knowledge that they can now concentrate their energies on the league.

"It may be a blessing in disguise," Alex Ferguson, the United manager said, clutching around for a straw. "The first year we won the championship we went out of the cups early, and so did Blackburn last year."

However, United's Coca-Cola Cup reverse on Tuesday night, their second cup exit in eight days, brought a worryingly familiar refrain from Ferguson, who blamed "carelessness" for his team's demise. He had a point. United had done the hard work, a blistering opening producing stunning goals for Scholes and Cooke to reduce the deficit to only one goal with 77 minutes remaining.

At that stage, United looked certain to overturn York's first-leg advantage with something to spare. Instead, they relaxed. "They blitzed us, didn't they?" Alan Little, the York manager, said. "I was surprised by how direct they were to start with, but once they had got those two goals, they seemed to settle back and play it around me. Even so, the chances continued to come, but poor finishing at one end — primarily from Andy Cole — and sloppiness at the other ended United's hopes."

There were some consolations for Ferguson, with Cantona getting another match under his belt. He resumed his partnership with

Giggs with evident relish and has struck up a promising understanding with Scholes.

The failures in front of goal may be annoying for Ferguson in the short term — the game was United's only win in their last five matches — but Cole's fortune will surely change soon and Scholes, who claimed two goals at York, Giggs and Cantona himself still look full of goals.

The worry for Ferguson lies at the other end. Defensive errors were at the heart of the

problem against Rotor Volgograd in the UEFA Cup and, on Tuesday night, it was the goal from York that tilted the tie against United.

There may be excuses, with Irwin missing in recent matches, and the defensive shield in front of the back four also under strength, with Butt injured and Keane restricted to 35 minutes by the stomach muscle problem that is likely to rule him out of Ireland's crucial match against Latvia on Wednesday, but this sea-

son, of the senior defenders, only Schuster has performed consistently. The easy answer is to point to Steve Bruce's birth certificate and suggest that the captain is past his best. However, at York, not for the first time recently, Pallister looked the more vulnerable.

At least this week's financial news left no doubt, if any existed, that Ferguson has the finances to put the matter right, with £8 million said to be available.

"The financial results don't change anything," Ferguson said. "We've always known we've had the money and we've been looking at a lot of situations regarding bringing new players in. We would certainly move if the right one came up. We'll keep assessing the situation. We are busy all the time in that department."

In pre-season, Ferguson was concentrating on filling the gap left by Andrei Kanchelskis, with attempts to buy Darren Anderson and Marc Overmars. The signing of Ruel Fox by Tottenham Hotspur could open the way for another bid for Anderson, although Ferguson insisted that the cup exits make the need for reinforcements less pressing.

"In one way, the cup exits ease the situation," he said. "We don't enjoy losing, but with just league games to concentrate on now until the new year, there isn't the same drain on our resources."

By then, United's prospects in the FA Cup Premiership will be defined. In the meantime, Ferguson may decide that he has other priorities, with the defence needing his attention. Defenders come cheaper than forwards, too.

Tottenham finalise £4m signing of Fox

RUEL FOX yesterday joined Tottenham Hotspur from Newcastle United for a fee of £4.2 million. Fox watched Tottenham beat Wimbledon on Saturday, a result that gave them their fifth win in a row and their best run for three years. His registration documents were only approved by the FA Premier League yesterday, however.

There was no hurry as Ruel could not play in our Coca-Cola Cup tie at Chester and we don't have a league game until Saturday week," Gerry Francis, the Tottenham manager said.

Francis, who is understood to have had a £7 million transfer fund available to him, has bid for at least a dozen players and visited six countries in his search of new blood at White Hart Lane. "Ruel is just what we need," he said. "He's a

quality player capable of playing on either flank or down the middle. Ruel proved his capabilities last season when he hit ten goals in 40 league games to finish only a couple behind Newcastle's leading scorer, Peter Beardsley."

Fox, 27, is expected to make his Tottenham debut at home to Nottingham Forest on Saturday week. The Ipswich-born player was on the verge of England honours after playing a leading role as Norwich City finished third in the FA Cup Premiership in 1993 and enjoyed a UEFA Cup run.

He saw his £2.25 million move to Newcastle in February last year as a stepping stone to full international recognition, but it did not come about and he will now be hoping to press his claims once more at White Hart Lane.

TENNIS 46

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السلامة

Airport noise threatens Keating re-election bid

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE IN SYDNEY

AIRCRAFT noise has become a big political headache for Paul Keating, the Australian Prime Minister, as he prepares to go to the polls for the second time.

The question of what to do about the noise from planes landing in Sydney is quickly becoming the single most important election issue in what is expected to be a fiercely fought battle between Mr Keating's Labor Government and the coalition Opposition.

The fledgling No Aircraft Noise Party, set up eight months ago, already has two elected mayors in Sydney and has staged a number of blockades, causing chaos at the airport.

While there have long been complaints about the noise, the problems really began last November when the Government opened a new parallel runway at the city's Kingsford-Smith airport and closed the east-west cross runway. The result was a dramatic shift in noise pollution, which

placed key marginal seats in Sydney's more prosperous, and highly vocal, neighbourhoods directly under the flight path for the first time.

The Government introduced a \$280 million (£133 million) compensation package to insulate about 4,200 homes and compulsorily purchase 112 of the worst affected properties. However, the



Keating: polls show loss of blue-collar support

problem has touched a raw nerve among voters and is not going to be solved easily.

As Mr Keating and John Howard, the Opposition leader, come up with increasingly elaborate schemes to ensure their marginal seats are not under the flight path, the issue is becoming more intractable by the day.

Reopening the east-west runway, which is Mr Howard's solution, would transfer the noise to other suburbs, as well as sparking fears about the safety of interconnecting runways.

Transferring flights to Sydney's planned second airport at Badgerly Creek will not be an option for several years. Mr Howard has promised to transfer all international flights there.

The row seems likely to derail the Government's planned \$2 billion privatisation of the country's 23 airports, with Mr Howard threatening to block the relevant law unless the east-west

runway is reopened. Laurie Brereton, the Transport Minister, has described his threat as "a gross act of political lunacy", warning that any delay to the sale could scare off international bidders for the airports. They include BAA, the British airport operator.

The Government had planned to sell the four biggest airports — Sydney, Melbourne, Perth and Brisbane — by the middle of next year, with the remaining ones to be sold in 1997. Without the money from the sale, the Government's budget will slide back into deficit from the \$578 million surplus that it announced in May.

This week, a poll showed that Labor had lost 25 per cent of its blue-collar support since gaining power in 1983 — and half of it since the 1993 federal election.

Mr Keating has until May to call an election, although there are signs that both sides may be gearing up for a pre-Christmas battle.



A newly discovered species of *Bathynomus* sea louse, "Big Boy", is displayed yesterday in Sydney by Dr Jim Lowry, a crustacean expert. The creature is a sludge-dwelling scavenger that has survived undetected for 80 million years and rules the roost in the murky depths of the Pacific Ocean off Australia's east coast. "Big Boy" grows to 12in and lives more than 3,000ft down. Dr Lowry, principal research scientist at the Australian Museum, said: "We don't know yet whether they are predators, but we know they

'Big Boy' rules the deep

are scavengers and voracious eaters. One even bit my hand." Two similar, but smaller species, "Wide Boy" and "Mono Brow", have also been discovered. Dr Lowry is co-ordinating a four-year study of scavenging marine animals, and has set traps from Cairns to Tasmania. "We have found more than 200 species of marine invertebrates, more than 120 of which are unknown." *Bathynomus* is related to the Balmat Hag, a tasty shellfish, but is not meaty enough to be good eating. (AFP)

ing marine animals, and has set traps from Cairns to Tasmania. "We have found more than 200 species of marine invertebrates, more than 120 of which are unknown." *Bathynomus* is related to the Balmat Hag, a tasty shellfish, but is not meaty enough to be good eating. (AFP)

Tokyo cult leader said to have made gas confession

FROM REUTERS IN TOKYO

SHOKO ASAHARA, leader of the Aum Shinrikyo sect, has admitted to ordering nerve-gas attacks on the Tokyo underground that killed 11 people, the NHK public television reported yesterday.

Last night the Kyodo news agency quoted the doomsday cult guru's lawyer as saying police interrogators forced the confession on Mr Asahara by threatening to invoke a draconian law against subversive activities and have the sect outlawed. Tokyo police said they had no information on the reports.

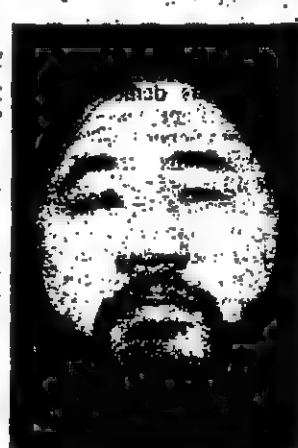
The senior sect leaders undertook the series of acts on my orders," NHK quoted Mr Asahara as telling his interrogators. NHK did not say which other specific cases he was referring to. Kyodo quoted the guru's lawyer, Shoji Yokoyama, as saying: "The confession was forced and so does not have any value as evidence in court."

The Japanese media have often based their crime reporting on police briefings and sources without saying so, especially in coverage of the bewildering array of cases blamed on the 10,000-member Aum Shinrikyo (Supreme Truth) sect. Most briefings are not open to the foreign media. Mr Asahara was arrested on May 16 at his hiding place in the cult's complex at Kamiku Isshiki, a village at the foot of Mount Fuji west of

Tokyo. He has spent more than four months in detention and is scheduled to face his first trial on October 26. He is charged with murder and attempted murder, stemming from the subway attack in March.

If Mr Asahara repeats his reported confession in court, the trial would end in a matter of months, not years as predicted. It is up to the presiding judge to accept or refuse affidavits based on police interrogation as evidence.

Mr Asahara faces a mountain of other material evidence on the nerve-gas cases and reported confessions by other senior Aum leaders, most of whom are reported to have told police that Mr Asahara



Asahara: confession forced, lawyer says

ordered the attacks and other crimes. If convicted, the maximum penalty is death by hanging.

Besides the criminal proceedings against Mr Asahara, and individual cult members, the Japanese Government has been considering two possible ways to disband the cult.

The milder form of disbandment comes under the Religious Institute Act, a court order denying the sect its legal status. The group's assets would be confiscated and would no longer be exempt from taxes, but the group can still carry out activities.

This process could take up to ten years before the order becomes final in Japan's snail-paced judiciary system. The other, tougher method is to lay subversion charges against the group to outlaw it.

Last week, Tomoharu Tazawa, the Justice Minister, said his ministry was in the last steps of launching a process that would outlaw the group's activities, including any meetings and publication of periodicals, under the Subversive Activities Prevention Law.

Toruichi Murayama, the Prime Minister, said this week that the ministry should be cautious if invoking the 1952 Act, which has never been used against a group out of fear it would violate the constitutional freedoms of speech, assembly and press.

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Life of jailed military regim

...the regime is a...
...how can...
...their own...

champions as he begins with US visit

...the regime is a...
...how can...
...their own...



Wife of jailed Abiola defies military regime's watchdogs

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN LAGOS

ALONE police car, parked near 5-7 Moshood Abiola Crescent, monitors the comings and goings at one of Lagos's most famous addresses around the clock. Nigeria's best-known opposition figure may be under lock and key hundreds of miles away, but the paranoid military leaders keep a watchful eye on his family and friends.

The high-walled mansion in the Ikeja district with two swimming pools, innumerable bedrooms and a dining room the size of a cruise ship has a ghostly feel. Chief Moshood Abiola's face beams out from life-size photographs in the airy corridors and prominently displayed freedom awards indicate his international stature. For his three official wives — there are said to be many more — and the gaggle of children and friends who live at the address, life has been turned upside down.

Elegantly attired in a traditional head wrap and matching dress, Kudirat, 44, became the chief's senior wife three years ago. These days, the mother of six says, she also lives like a prisoner: visiting friends and supporters are seized and threatened by police; she never ventures out after dark for fear of assassination, and three

months ago the household's ten telephone lines were cut off.

The former businesswoman has emerged as the voice of her multi-millionaire husband, who has been silenced. He has been under house arrest in Abuja, the capital, since he was charged with treason for declaring himself President after the 1993 election, which he was widely believed to have won, was annulled by the military.

‘This regime is devilish and I sometimes wonder how can they do such things to their own brothers and sisters?’

She has battled in vain for him to gain access to television, radio and newspapers, protested against his mistreatment and highlighted his deteriorating health. On her last visit almost a year ago, he cracked his spine during a tussle with his guards and the family doctor, who has been refused access for several months, reported this year that Chief Abiola is finding it difficult to walk or see.

This week's speech by General Sani Abacha, Nigeria's military

ruler, was a blow to those who hope for the chief's release. General Abacha set out a detailed plan for a return to civilian rule but said Chief Abiola was not a political prisoner and his case was judicial.

Kudirat pointed out that the Government has refused to abide by three court rulings granting him freedom and she has urged the international community to impose heavy sanctions on the

rights activists and cowed critics. In July, the Nigerian military regime shifted its focus from the fate of General Olusegun Obasanjo, the former head of state, and other convicted coup plotters, to cracking down on human rights activists. Among those detained was Dr Boko Ransome-Kuti, the chairman of a human rights group campaigning for democracy, who has reportedly been subjected to electric shocks.

Another leading dissident, Ken Saro-Wiwa, 53, began a hunger strike last month to protest against his inhuman conditions. The writer is being held in chains at a secret location.

In Lagos, a handful of lawyers, journalists and others risk their lives by monitoring the Government's crimes and speaking out against it. Gani Fawehinmi, one of the few leading opposition politicians locked behind bars has been detained 24 times, jailed twice and saw his son and two bodyguards shot and badly injured.

□ Plan rejected. The National Democratic Coalition, Nigeria's main opposition, yesterday rejected General Abacha's plan for a return to civil rule and called for an immediate handover. (Reuters)



Chief Moshood Abiola, still in prison and finding it hard to walk or see

Dhaka aims for one-child families

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DHAKA

BANGLADESH, one of the world's most crowded countries, is preparing to launch a campaign for one-child families after the remarkable success of a 20-year drive to reduce the population.

The move will make Bangladesh the only democratic country to set such a target. Average family sizes have fallen from a peak of nearly seven children in the 1970s to just under three, making them among the lowest in Asia.

The Family Planning Association of Bangladesh, financed mostly by overseas donors, has overcome resistance from all but a hardcore of Islamic clergymen. In two decades the use of contraceptives by Bangladeshi couples has risen from almost nil to nearly 50 per cent. The association says the country is about to set up a condom factory.

The population of 119 million, while continuing to rise at present, is expected to level off at about 200 million in 30 years' time.

Pope champions UN as he begins fourth US visit

BY PHILIP FULLELL ON BOARD THE PAPAL FLIGHT

THE Pope flew to the United States yesterday, calling for strong support for the United Nations, where he is scheduled to deliver a key speech.

Looking in good form, the Pope answered questions from accompanying reporters for about 15 minutes on the Alitalia aircraft taking him to Newark, New Jersey. He was due to meet President Clinton privately after his arrival and address the General Assembly in New York today.

The Pope, 75, said it was important to him personally to visit the UN in its fiftieth anniversary year because of the organisation's importance in defending human rights and attempting to keep nations together. He said: "One speaks much about the crisis of the UN, but even if it is in crisis it must be safeguarded because it is worth having this world, international institution, this family of nations. It is important for nations to have a family and not live alone as orphans."

The four-day visit to New Jersey, New York and Baltimore is his fourth to America and his 68th trip abroad in 77 years, as pontiff. Josephina Navarro-Valls, the Vatican's chief spokeswoman, said he expected the Pope and Mr

Clinton to discuss the international situation, including former Yugoslavia, and possibly Cuba. Washington has maintained a trade embargo against Havana for the past 35 years and opposes normal ties unless President Castro liberalises his rule.

The Communist-governed Caribbean island is the only country in Latin America that the Pope has not visited. He said conditions for the Roman Catholic Church had improved but gave no indication that he would go to Cuba soon. "We have no invitation from the Government. We just have one from the bishops," he said.

Cuba's Roman Catholic Church has denied reports that the Pope was holding talks with Señor Castro.

Despite the certainty of large adoring crowds, American Catholics have made it clear in opinion polls that while they love the messenger, they do not always care for the message.

Recent polls show that 70 per cent of the country's 56 million Catholics want a married priesthood, 60 per cent want women as priests, and 60 per cent favour allowing divorced Catholics to marry in the church. (Reuters)



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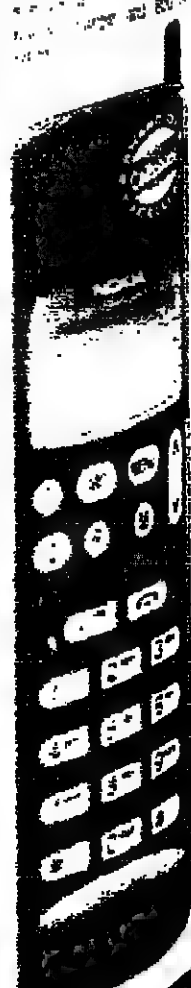
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Les Affreux 'surrender to French' in Comoros

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

AN ATTEMPT by 600 French troops to end the week-old coup led by Colonel Bob Denard, a French mercenary, against the Government of the Comoros Islands appeared to be close to success last night.

The French Government announced that Colonel Denard, outnumbered and outgunned, had surrendered, a week after he and his men seized power in the former French colony in the Indian Ocean and abducted President Djohar.

The colonel, a veteran of public relations as well as foreign wars, was still insisting last night, however, that he had not laid down his arms. "We are still at the same point. We are still negotiating. I have not surrendered. ... we will see what happens tomorrow," Colonel Denard, 66, told journalists at his military camp at Karandini, north of the capital, Moroni.

At least three men were killed and several others, including two French journalists, were wounded during a gun battle between Colonel Denard's motley array of mercenaries and Comorian troops, and the French special forces who landed by helicopter shortly before dawn.

General Raymond Gernigon, the secretary to Charles Millon, the French Defence Minister, announced late yesterday that France's most infamous "dog of war" had

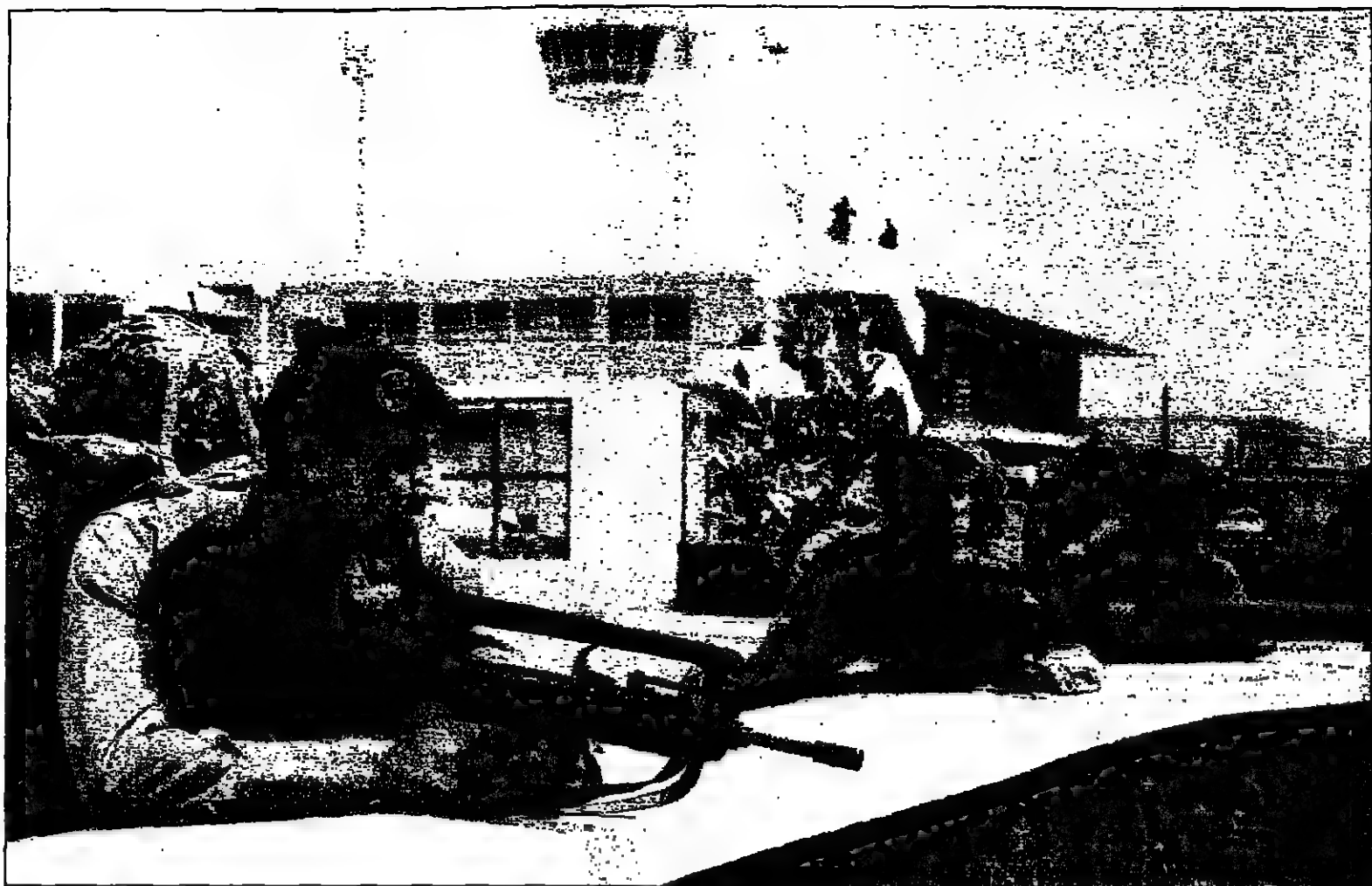
surrendered and had agreed to release the 80-year-old President. He said that the colonel would "be brought to France to be tried".

Initially, Colonel Denard declared there was "no question of laying down our arms", but as the French forces gained control he told a French radio interviewer he was negotiating his surrender.

While Operation Azalea, the attempt to remove him, was in progress, the mercenary told reporters that he took full responsibility for the coup and explained that the decision to depose the President involved "a debt of honour". The colonel added loftily: "You wouldn't understand."

The French Foreign Ministry ruled out any form of deal. The colonel has already been given a five-year suspended sentence in France for his part in a failed coup in Benin in 1977, and there is a warrant for his arrest in connection with the assassination of President Abdallah of the Comoros in 1989. "M Denard had no right to leave French soil," the Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

Colonel Denard has long been a key player in Comorian politics, which declared its independence in 1975. Throughout the 1980s he and his followers, known as "Les Affreux" or "The Monsters", acted as the country's de facto rulers. The flamboy-



French Marines take up position yesterday outside Moroni International Airport in an attempt to retake control of the Comoros Islands

ant mercenary said that he was "disgusted" with France's decision to intervene in the Comoros, and described the invading French forces as his "brothers in arms" — a clear reference to his long and dubious links with the French military establishment.

Over the years Colonel Denard has seen mercenary action in Yemen, Gabon and Biafra, and in 1993 French military, diplomatic and defence chiefs admitted that the State had backed or approved most of his exploits.

"The French forces intervened at midnight, French time, in response to an appeal from the Comorian Prime

Minister [Caambi el-Yachour], Hervé de Charette, the French Foreign Minister, said.

The Prime Minister, who has been trapped in the French Embassy since the coup, announced yesterday that he was taking over as interim head of state until President Djohar was freed.

The French military operation to capture Colonel Denard was justified under the terms of a 1978 defence agreement between France and the Comoros allowing French intervention in the event of external aggression.

Photograph, page 24



Captain Ayoub Combo, a rebel leader, and Colonel Bob Denard in Moroni yesterday

Juppé orders staff to stop buying satirical weekly

BY BEN MACINTYRE

THE embattled French Prime Minister, Alain Juppé, has moved to silence his harshest critics by banning all ministers' staff from buying copies of *Le Canard Enchaîné*, the weekly satirical newspaper and France's equivalent of *Private Eye*.

Le Canard has heaped ridicule on the Prime Minister in recent months and was the first to publish highly damaging allegations that M Juppé, as Deputy Mayor of Paris, used his influence to reduce the rent on his son's apartment.

M Juppé, it appears, finally

ran out of patience with criticism that he considered "petty, miserable and mean", and last week his private secretary issued an order instructing all offices under prime ministerial authority "not to buy a single copy" of the paper and not to renew their subscriptions. When some functionaries expressed astonishment at the ban, the word from above was terse: "That is an order!"

The Prime Minister's information office confirmed that instructions had gone out to staff to cease purchasing the publication immediately, although other sources at Hôtel

Matignon, the Prime Minister's office, insisted that the number of copies had merely been reduced "for budgetary reasons".

Le Canard was popular reading among M Juppé's subordinates, since no less than 70 copies were on order every week until the ban.

Delighted to be the object of such special censorship, *Le Canard* yesterday published a subscription coupon on its front page, made out in M Juppé's name. "Since we are anxious that the Prime Minister of France should be as well informed as possible, our journal has decided to give him a free subscription," the paper declared.

It said it would post free issues to M Juppé's home for at least three months. "This is, anyway, much longer than many magistrates and friends ... predict he will stay at the Matignon."

On the same page, however, *Le Canard* offered its readers a series of photographs showing the bald Prime Minister tucking into numerous beers at the Hôtel Méridien in Paris and appearing very merry indeed, in spite of what the paper called "the national peril" he has warned us of and the build-up of all the other perils that assail him.

Row over Booker 'traitor' favourite

FROM RICHARD BESTON IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA'S literary community has been split over a controversial novel about Andrei Vlasov, the Russian wartime fascist commander, which is strongly tipped to win this year's Russian Booker prize.

A *General and His Army*, which came out last year in mixed reviews, was instantly picked as the hot favourite by judges and book critics to win the £8,000 first prize when short-listed with two other novels last week.

The book, by the émigré writer Georgi Vladimov, tells of the wartime experiences of General Vlasov, who was a senior commander in the Red Army before being captured and agreeing to lead a pro-Nazi army made up mainly of Soviet prisoners of war.

In a review in *Kriticheskoe Obozrenie* (Book Review), Vladimir Bogomolov, a respected military historian and veteran of the war, savaged the book for historical inaccuracies and attempting to rehabilitate a man Russians know only as a traitor.

For those who regard Hitler's defeat as the greatest Russian achievement of the century, the book's subject matter is particularly disturbing as it coincides with the rise in the country of several neo-Nazi movements.

However, Natalya Ivanova, a literary critic, said military historians were missing the point. "Tolstoy made many factual mistakes in *War and Peace*, but that did not diminish the book's value," she said. "This book is a phenomenon because it makes us re-examine our role in the war in a sobering light."

The row is being greeted with quiet satisfaction by the Booker's Russian committee, accused in the past of selecting worthy but dull works.

Nato jets renew attacks on Serbs' missile sites

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

NATO aircraft went into action over Bosnia-Herzegovina for the first time in more than two weeks yesterday when three Serb missile batteries were attacked by American fighters.

Nato planes on routine Operation Deny Flight missions were targeted by Serb anti-aircraft missile radars in southern and central Bosnia. Although the Serbs did not open fire, the radars were attacked by high-speed anti-radiation missiles (Harm).

A Nato spokesman said there were three separate incidents. It was not known how much damage had been caused by the airstrike. However, there were no further incidents of Serb radars "locking on" to Nato aircraft.

Two of the sites were in central or western Bosnia and the third about 12 miles south of Sarajevo. Serb forces have a variety of surface-to-air missiles, including portable and truck-mounted systems, both of which have scored kills against Nato aircraft.

Nato's air campaign against Serb targets, which began at the end of August after a

mortar killed 38 people in a Sarajevo marketplace, took out many of the anti-aircraft missile batteries and radar facilities.

However, yesterday's incidents showed that Nato aircraft over Bosnia still remain vulnerable to ground-to-air missile attack. Some of the damaged Serb radars may have been repaired.

□ Sarajevo: Richard Holbrooke, the American mediator, said yesterday the Bosnian Government had made a "serious proposal" for a ceasefire in its war with the Bosnian Serbs.

He told reporters he was leaving for Belgrade to discuss the proposal with President Milosevic and would return to Sarajevo with a reply on Thursday.

The American envoy did not give details of the proposal, which emerged at talks which he held in Sarajevo accompanied by Carl Bildt, the European Union negotiator.

He said earlier that the differences between the two sides were large and added: "The war is not over. The ceasefire in the Sarajevo area

is fragile and fighting in the west is continuing and perhaps accelerating in areas."

Mr Bildt expressed surprise that the Bosnian Government was not showing more enthusiasm for a ceasefire. UN peacekeepers said the Government was playing a risky game which could result in even bigger military reverses.

Speaker takes over in Skopje

Skopje: Stojan Andov, the Speaker, took office as acting President of Macedonia yesterday as President Gligorov underwent surgery to save his sight after surviving an attempt to kill him with a car bomb. Mr Andov heads the business-oriented Liberal Party, the second largest force in the ruling coalition.

Macedonian radio confirmed that Mr Gligorov, 78, suffered head and eye injuries and his condition "will remain at a delicate stage for the next few days". (Reuters)

Baby dies after being fed cocaine

Albuquerque: An 11-month-old girl, who police said was fed crack cocaine by her two-year-old brother, died of a heart attack on the way to hospital. The mother called an ambulance because the baby would not stop vomiting. The mother and her boyfriend were arrested to face charges of child abuse resulting in death, tampering with evidence, and with possessing and dealing in crack. (AP)

Shevardnadze plot denied

Moscow: Igor Georgadze, Georgia's former Security Minister, has denied accusations that he plotted the August assassination attempt against Eduard Shevardnadze, the country's leader, the Interfax agency said yesterday. Mr Shevardnadze suffered facial cuts. (Reuters)

Children left in 120F killer car

McMinnville: Jennie Bain Duck, 20, who left her children, Devin, two, and Dustin, 12 months, strapped in car seats for eight hours in temperatures of 49C (120F) in Tennessee, was acquitted of murder, but convicted of aggravated abuse. She will be sentenced on Monday. (AP)

Powder dressing

Bogotá: An airport security guard, suspicious of two women passengers' oversized shoulder pads as they boarded a plane from Medellín to Miami found they contained 2½lb of heroin. (Reuters)

"Le Canard" fait un cadeau à Juppé

BULLETIN D'ABONNEMENT

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à joindre au présent formulaire

Le Canard Enchaîné fights back yesterday with a free subscription form for M Juppé on its front page

Women's protest flight banned

FROM MICHAEL MUNRO IN WELLINGTON

THE French authorities in Tahiti have refused permission for a New Zealand aircraft to carry 140 women anti-nuclear protesters to the Pacific island, further souring relations between France and New Zealand.

Landing rights for the charter flight by Kiwi Air, New Zealand's newest international airline, were revoked yesterday,

a day before the intended visit. The leaders of the peace mission said they were devastated by the French decision and the New Zealand Government pressed officials in Tahiti to reconsider the ban. Jim Bolger, the Prime Minister, said the revoking of landing rights was "unnecessarily defensive".

New Zealand's opposition to the renewed nuclear testing programme in French Polynesia has included trying to

bring a world court case to have the tests suspended.

□ Paris: Jean-Pierre Chevènement, a former French Defence Minister, said yesterday that cracks identified in the Mururoa atoll have worsened as a result of nuclear tests there since 1980. He was responding to a press report that a map drawn in 1980 showed extensive fissuring of the atoll which might lead to an ecological catastrophe. (AFP)

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or not
it is clear
to you

no doubt the
universe is
unfolding as
it should

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سورة الانعام

Patten sidelined as China piles on the pressure

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKEY IN HONG KONG

PEKING has made it clear it intends the endgame in Hong Kong should be nothing less than a surrender and a punishment for Chris Patten, the Governor.

As Qian Qichen, the Chinese Foreign Minister, approved a new set of agreements in London on Tuesday, a Foreign Office diplomat said privately: "We don't always have to see it [Hong Kong] through the prism of the Patten eyes." This has caused indignation at Government House.

Britain's compromises with Peking over Hong Kong — along with the steady sidelining of Mr Patten — has continued during this week's talks between Mr Qian and Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary. Hong Kong's Government was not represented and China's principal concession was to offer Hong Kong officials limited and unclear participation during the handover to Peking, including the grand, solemn and "decent" final ceremony at midnight on July 1, 1997.

In Hong Kong, Peking promptly spelled out just how limited the offer is. Zhao Jihua, a senior diplomat, said: "We should make it very clear in which areas the two sides can co-operate and which is the business of China itself."

Even at the Foreign Office it

confirming its accommodative role in dealing with Peking — and displaying its traditional view that Hong Kong is full of complaining liberals — Hong Kong is preparing itself for the Anschluss.

It was agreed at the talks that there are to be more formal contacts between Hong Kong officials and the Chinese shadow government, which will be fully divulged next year. This process will include not only the Peking-appointed Preparatory Committee of "patriotic" Hong Kong personalities, but the Chief Executive who is to succeed the Governor. Next year Hong



Patten: China demands Governor's surrender

Kong will know who its real government is to be.

Nothing was said at Tuesday's talks about Mr Qian's prior declaration that the newly elected Legislative Council, in which Democrats hold 29 of the 60 seats, is to be dissolved in 1997. "We did not discuss this question," Mr Qian said briskly, with Mr Rifkind silently beside him. "The issue has already been resolved."

The failure of Britain to defend the council has embarrassed the Government here. Hong Kong officials constantly observe that dissolving the Legislative Council would be bad for Hong Kong. Even Peking's failed candidates in the elections are urging Peking not to abolish the council, and if it does to reassemble it immediately until new free and fair elections are held.

What Mr Patten formalised in his constitutional changes, which resulted in the recent elections, is recognition that Hong Kong is now what Peking says it will not accept — a "political city".

The Democrats are ready to negotiate with their rivals on important local issues, such as taxation and imported labour, in the face of Government House policies which will no longer automatically be put into operation.

A former Whitehall official involved in the 1982-1984 sov-

ereignty negotiations with Peking said: "We did not accept that we should give the game away in one go... Simply to have given in to *diktat* would have been politically intolerable." Meanwhile, Hong Kong officials say that British negotiating positions are yielded too fast.

Peking must have noted that Hong Kong lawyers returned Margaret Ng as their "functional" representative to the council. She is a thoroughgoing Democrat, although not a member of Martin Lee's Democratic Party. Lawyers and judges will be vital here after 1997 in retaining the confidence of the business community. The lawyers, in endorsing Ms Ng by a large majority, sent Peking a message not to impose its legal forms and practices in Hong Kong.

Although Peking says repeatedly it will dissolve the Legislative Council, it does not say how. Nor does it refer any more to Hong Kong's laws as "colonial" or to its senior officials as British "running dogs". While they scorn Mr Patten, the Chinese do not want a second Tibet on their doorstep, or a Taiwan terrified of amalgamation. There are those in Peking who understand that the ceremony in July 1997 must truly be "decent".



Malcolm Rifkind and his Peking counterpart, Qian Qichen, at the London talks

Pretoria spy chief shot dead in car

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN IN JOHANNESBURG

DOUBTS persist over the death of Mziwendoda Mdluli, head of security for South Africa's National Intelligence Agency, who was found in his car with a gunshot wound to the head.

Pretoria police say suicide seems the most likely explanation, and the dead man was killed with a bullet from his 9mm pistol that was found in the car. Official ballistic studies are still awaited which would show the trajectory of the bullet, the angle of entry and the distance it travelled.

Mr Mdluli, 30, was a former member of the intelligence arm of the Azanian People's Liberation Army, (Apla), the armed wing of the Pan Africanist Congress. Maxwell Nematshvhanani, the general secretary of the PAC, insisted yesterday that he was murdered.

"When you see the interior of the car, it indicates there was a struggle," he said. "The trajectory of the bullet and its angle of entry all show that he could not have killed himself. Besides, he was a big man with a large stomach and he never wore a seat belt in his car. He was found with his seat belt on." Mr Nematshvhanani also said that, although the car had central locking, the front doors were open but the back two were locked.

Mr Mdluli became Apla's military attaché in Zimbabwe in 1990, returning to South Africa two years later to be integrated into the National Intelligence Agency, responsible for both internal and external intelligence. His job as security chief meant little involvement with actual intelligence work and police said that his death posed no threat to national security.

Captain David Harrington, of the Pretoria police, said: "There will be an inquest, which is why we cannot say now exactly how he died... But we have no reason to suspect murder. No foul play is suspected."

Art treasures find home by the Nile

By CHRISTOPHER WALKER, MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT

AFTER decades of neglect, the finest collection of European art in the Middle East has found a permanent public home on the banks of the Nile where this week it joined the relics of the pharaohs as one of the great attractions for tourists visiting Egypt.

The art treasures that went on show yesterday at the new museum created in the former villa of Mahmoud Khalil, a wealthy politician and art collector, include works by Van Gogh, Degas, Toulouse-Lautrec, Renoir and a haunting oil by Goya entitled *Life and Death* which is valued by Egyptian officials at over £30 million.

The picture, showing a

woman painted in warm colours with a rich mane of red hair, lazily playing with a piece of cloth while a second woman crouches near her eyes closed, head in hands and skin a corpse-like soft grey, was described by a 19th-century critic as "the peak of the artist's career".

Among the impressionists on display in the new museum are works by Monet, Pissarro and Sisley. The display also includes Van Gogh's *Genet and Coquelicot*, which is valued at £15 million, and a version of Ingres' *Odalique* or *concubine*, regaining copy on a pile of cushions and rich cloth.

The paintings have been

kept in obscurity because when Khalil died 40 years ago he bequeathed his collection to the state on condition that it be left at his home for display. President Sadat, who was assassinated in 1981, ignored the request and took over the villa for his staff, banishing the works to a minor museum where they received scant attention.

Speaking at the opening of the refurbished Nile-side villa which now houses the bequest in an environment of a properly controlled temperatures and humidity, Farouk Hosni, the Culture Minister, said: "This is the most important collection in the Middle East. There are French grand mas-

ters and great sculptors of the 19th century. Some of these works were unknown in Europe: they had a catalogue from 1890 which mentioned [some of them], but they didn't know where they were. They were in Cairo."

Until last year, when some of the paintings were temporarily put on show in Paris — the exhibition was called "The Forgotten of Egypt" — the whereabouts of many of the works were unknown.

Mr Hosni said: "Khalil was one of the greatest collectors in the world. To own 300 pieces of art in your house, that is enormous. He also had taste; he chose very beautiful pictures."

Filipino flood victims robbed

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN SAN FERNANDO, PHILIPPINES

THIEVES, some using boats, have descended on villages hit by floods and flows of volcanic debris, police reported yesterday.

Police have detained seven suspects rounded up by residents in the area, 35 miles north of Manila, which was ravaged by 10ft-high volcanic flows unleashed from the slopes of Mount Pinatubo by tropical storm Sybil on Sunday. An officer said the

thieves were after appliances left on the rooftops of half-buried houses.

Residents said some thieves, believed to be from other provinces, disguised themselves by mingling with disaster authorities rescuing residents who were marooned. Dionysio Ventura, a regional police chief, said some residents had refused to leave for fear of having their belongings stolen.

More than 70 people have so far been confirmed dead after landslides and floods touched off when typhoon

Sybil lashed the Philippine archipelago. The death toll could rise, as many more are missing. Reports of bodies floating have not been confirmed.

Sybil has destroyed £19 million worth of roads, bridges and other public infrastructure and more than £2 million worth of crops, the Office of Civil Defence said. More than 2,000 houses have been destroyed and 7,100 damaged in several provinces, and about 370,000 people have been displaced or affected.

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An outburst of temper increases heart risk □ Combined Aids drugs help New York writer □ Danger of illegal molluscs



BARELY a flicker of irritation crossed the face of Norman Lamont, the former Chancellor of the Exchequer, who is famed for his good

temper, when the waiter served him Sillton rather than the Shropshire Blue he had ordered. It was as well for, by the time the cheese arrived, Mr Lamont was deep into a discussion on the disadvantages to a politician who is not able to control anger when dealing with less senior parliamentary colleagues, civil servants or others not in a position to respond.

Anger is not only sometimes a bar to political success and promotion but it can also be the key to everlasting damnation. A survey of more than 1,600 American heart attack victims, questioned within four days of their coronary, has recently been carried out by doctors from Harvard Medical School, and the New England Deaconess Hospital, in Boston. Their study shows that an outburst of anger in a 50-year-old man, previously considered

Take aspirin for your anger



MEDICAL BRIEFING
Dr Thomas Stuttford

healthy, more than doubled his chance of having a heart attack in the next two hours.

More than 200 years ago, John Hunter the founder of British surgery, pointed out that his life was in the hands of any fool who cared to make him angry, but Hunter knew that he had serious cardiovascular problems. The Americans who were questioned had thought that they were fit until a quarrel with their spouses, colleagues or lawyers proved otherwise.

In the investigation, conducted in 55 different American hospitals,

about a third of the patients were women, and the statistics suggest that anger is as bad for them as it is for men.

The other aim of the survey was to discover whether taking a daily aspirin could protect the patient's heart from the damage which anger could inflict. The news is encouraging for those who, although they become infuriated by carpark attendants and traffic wardens, are also taking aspirin.

The statistics showed that although aspirin didn't entirely neutralise the effect of anger,

which remained a significant risk factor, it went an appreciable way to doing so. Unfortunately, not enough of the women studied were taking aspirin regularly for any statistics regarding its effect for them to be reliable. A larger trial involving more than 5,000 people, which will include enough women to make their replies meaningful, is now being planned.

Aspirin has been recommended as a means of preventing clot formation for those who are at particular risk of having a coronary thrombosis or a stroke. Anger causes a release of adrenaline, which raises the blood pressure. This surge of pressure ruptures the fatty plaques of atheroma clinging to the coronary arterial walls, and thereby prepares the site for clot formation — unless there is aspirin in the blood stream to disrupt the process.

Atheromatous plaque can occur in patients whose coronary arteries are in otherwise relatively good order. The optimum dose of aspirin is considered to be 75mg a day, and is available in enteric coated forms, which are less likely to cause gastric bleeding.

Aids cocktail

PATIENTS with Aids watch their CD4 count as carefully as pilots read their altimeter. The count is a marker of resistance to infection and as the count falls so disaster is more likely.

In New York, Harold Brodkey, author of *The Runaway Soul*, and *Profane Friendship*, who was infected over 19 years ago, carefully studied his blood lymphocyte count and when the CD4 reading plummeted to 30 he knew that he hadn't time to finish the two novels he was writing. He was about to crash. When all seemed lost his doctors arranged for him to be included in a trial of a hitherto untried combination of drugs.

Glaxo, the British pharmaceutical company, is investigating the effect of a combination of a new, and as yet unlicensed, drug 3TC (lamivudine) with AZT (Zidovudine). The results for Mr Brodkey have been rewarding. His viral load has

fallen and his CD4 count has climbed to about 130, not a very encouraging reading for a healthy man, but one which should give him time to return to his PC and finish his books. Unfortunately, Mr Brodkey has become anemic as a result of the AZT, but this has been reversed with a blood transfusion. He now feels better than he has for years.

The trial showed that patients taking 150mg of 3TC twice a day in combination with the AZT did as well, if not better, than those who were given higher doses. In general, 3TC was well tolerated.

Shellfish risk



LAST year the European Community introduced stringent laws on the raising of shellfish for human consumption. Well established small oyster beds have been driven out of business and traditional mussel beds will be left unharvested.

The plate of *moules marinières*

should be safe but recent reports from the South Coast suggest that for every reasonably reliable mussel bed now left untended many more dangerous shores are being illegally worked by organised gangs. These marauders are plundering the shellfish regardless of the amount of sewage which has been swirling around them.

The effect on bird life in districts where waders rely upon the shellfish will be hard to quantify but could be catastrophic. The damage to humans from eating molluscs from contaminated shorelines is all too well known.

Shellfish filter gallons of seawater a day, their highly efficient filtration system is so sensitive that it not only collects and concentrates any bacteria in the water but also any viruses present. Neither the viruses nor bacteria make any difference to the taste or appearance of a mussel, oyster or cockle. The contaminated shellfish covertly carries the organisms which spread diseases as serious as Hepatitis A or polio. Or it can hand on a dose of salmonella or other bacterial causes of food poisoning.



Pupils with asthma inhalers are a common sight in our school playgrounds, but is it the price we have to pay for a high standard of living?

Besides its great natural beauty, the Isle of Skye is one of the least polluted parts of the kingdom — no toxic emissions from factory chimneys, no traffic-congested roads contaminating the air with acid aerosols and sulphur dioxide. Indeed, virtually the only man-made airborne pollutant is the smoke from household fires rapidly dispersed by the prevailing winds from the Atlantic.

And yet when Dr Jane Austin, paediatrician at Inverness's Royal Northern Infirmary, investigated the prevalence of asthma among the children of school age on the island, she found it to be commoner than in the rest of the Highlands, commoner than in Aberdeen, commoner even than in Cardiff. Her careful measurements of lung function showed a deterioration following exertion in one-third of the island's schoolchildren, while the equivalent figure in Cardiff is 5 per cent. Dr Austin's findings are quite unexceptional; doctors and scientists have found little or no relationship between the severity of airborne pollution and the numbers affected by asthma. Certainly those who already have asthma are often made wheezier and more short of breath by the photochemical smog from vehicle exhausts, but pollution does not seem to cause the illness or account for its increased frequency.

There is no evidence of the significant rise in pollutants that would have been necessary to cause the increase in asthma," says Professor Anthony Seaton, of Aberdeen

Why children are allergic to affluence

Allergies such as asthma have more to do with vaccines than air pollution, says Dr James Le Fanu

University, citing as evidence a remarkable study of children in Leipzig and Munich. Before the fall of the Berlin Wall, most of the factories in East Germany manufactured little else other than pollution, and Leipzig was no exception. In 1989 the concentrations of sulphur dioxide and particulate matter in the air were respectively 30 and 10 times higher than in Munich, and yet the study found asthma to be commoner in Munich than in smog-ridden Leipzig.

There is a profound disparity between popular belief and expert opinion on this matter. While for the public and environmentalists a causative link between air pollution and asthma is self-evident, the experts are not convinced. "Air pollution as a cause of asthma has the seeming merit of appealing to common sense," wrote Anthony Newman Taylor, professor of respiratory medicine at London's Royal

Brompton Hospital in *The Lancet* earlier this year (and one does not get a more authoritative opinion than that), yet the relationship, he says, "has not been observed."

So why do people, particularly children, suffer from asthma? Along with eczema and hay fever, asthma is one of three allergic illnesses with much in common. These atopic diseases are characterised by an excess production of an antibody called IgE which, in the presence of some allergens, causes symptoms. Thus for the atopic individual a high pollen count may cause the itchy eyes and runny nose of hay fever; chemicals and foods may cause the itchy, dry skin of eczema, while air pollutants, the house-dust mite and viral infections may cause the asthma wheeze.

The main features of these three atopic illnesses are re-

markably similar. They all run strongly in families and interdependently, suggesting that the same genes are involved. Thus, those with asthma are much more likely to suffer from eczema and hay fever, and their children are much more likely to suffer from these illnesses. They all tend to start in childhood and get better or disappear altogether with the passage of time. They have all become a lot more frequent since the war as shown by a comparative study of thousands of children in Aberdeen, in 1964 and 1989. Over this 25-year period, the prevalence of asthma and eczema doubled and that of hay fever trebled.

They are also, virtually uniquely, diseases of the advantaged — they occur more frequently in children born into professional compared to working-class households. They are also more common in small rather than large

families — "only" children are four times more likely to develop hay fever than those with several siblings and three times more likely to develop eczema. Further, as already noted, asthma seems to be commoner in isolated communities such as Skye than in towns, and in affluent cities such as Munich than in impoverished Leipzig.

Clearly, then, something to do with the body's immune system has changed, increasing the prevalence of these three illnesses. The obvious candidate — that fits in with all the other observations to do with social class and family size — is the decline in exposure to infection. Commenting on the relationship between eczema, hay fever and family size, Dr David Strachan, senior lecturer at St George's Hospital medical school, observes it is best explained "if allergic diseases are prevented by infections in early childhood transmitted by contact with older siblings".

Last month, Professor Newman Taylor made a similar point about asthma which he says may have reached "epidemic status in affluent societies because falling family size reduces the chances that toddlers and infants encounter infections sufficiently early". The rise in atopic illness certainly coincides with the precipitous decline during the postwar years in the major childhood infectious diseases, so perhaps they are the price that has to be paid for modern vaccines, the miracle of antibiotics and social progress.

How I learnt to be a life saver

Giles Coren takes a deep breath and joins St John Ambulance for a day

Can anything be more important than saving lives? Is there any single skill more useful than the ability to keep someone alive who might otherwise die?

I don't think so. Nor that I was one of those people, until this week, who had any idea how to do it. It all looks easy enough on *Baywatch*. Blow into the victim's mouth a few times, a couple of good hard whams on the chest and, hey presto, up he gets.

Unfortunately, it is not that easy. Nor yet is it as difficult as you might think. In fact, St John Ambulance are confident that in just two hours the rudiments of mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) can be passed on to someone who has no experience in first aid.

For a week beginning October 30, as part of their *Breath of Life* campaign, they will be offering three two-hour training courses around the country, designed to help people identify a heart attack or loss of consciousness and begin what they call the "chain of survival" which will keep the victim alive until an ambulance arrives.

Last time they attempted something like this 85,000 people took part. Every year about 330,000 people suffer heart attacks, and of the lives lost, three could be saved every day if CPR were carried out on only half the victims.

At the headquarters of St John Ambulance in central London I was taken through the course by training officer Terry Perkins.

The first thing I learnt was that CPR is not designed to make a heart that has stopped start beating again. Rather, it keeps oxygenated blood circulating to the brain until defibrillation is possible — the application of an electric shock to the heart.

First, you learn to identify whether the casualty is conscious, whether he is breathing and if the heart has stopped. If he is breathing you need do no more than put him in the recovery position. If he is not, then you are taught to check for obstruction to airflow (simply tilting a casual-



Giles Coren learns the techniques of life saving

ty's head back can clear obstruction by the tongue) and then try to restart breathing by pinching the nose closed, covering the person's mouth with yours and blowing air into his lungs. Horribly lifelike dummies, by the way, play the part of the victim. You must not try it on people.

In the worst case, when you cannot find a pulse, then you begin CPR. This involves blowing a couple of breaths into the victim's lungs and then pressing firmly just above the sternum at intervals of about a second. In doing this, you press the heart and pump oxygenated blood to the brain. After 15 pumps, you give air again, and repeat the process.

It is made extremely clear that before beginning CPR you call an ambulance. You are not going to get the casualty's heart beating again, all you can hope to do is keep him alive — and prevent brain damage — until help arrives. This is a skill that is needed only when there is no other alternative.

CPR mistakenly performed on a beating heart can be very dangerous. There are horror stories of people being sued after trying, and failing, to save a life. And, if there is a lot of blood, you might fear contracting an infection — although there are no records

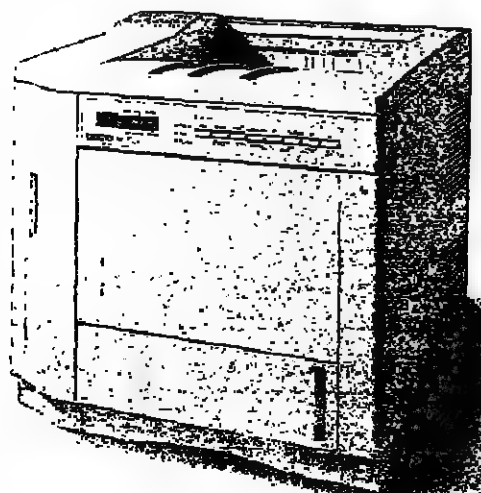
of HIV or Hepatitis B being transmitted during CPR.

As Mr Perkins put it: "When you come across someone lying unconscious in the street you have two options. You either step over him and carry on walking, or you stop and try to help." It is a sobering thought, and I hope I am never faced with that situation. Whether or not I will really be able to help is anyone's guess. But one thing is certain, if I do come across a dying person in the street tomorrow, he will stand a better chance of surviving than he would have done before this week.

● To book a place on the *Breath of Life* course, call 0639 901999, 45p a minute peak rate, 30p at other times.

The British Kidney Patient Association special number for joining the NHS organ donor register was given incorrectly on Tuesday. It is 0950 600699.

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Gloria Gaynor: "My husband's wonderful, but he's still a human being. Only Christ has been able to give me security because His love is eternal"

Gloria's survival guide

Julia Llewellyn Smith meets the soul singer whose biggest hit has become the women's anthem

A first I was afraid, I was petrified, Conversation stopped, cigarettes were snuffed, and everybody lights for space on the disco beat. They sway to the disco beat, was accusatory fingers and stinging along to the most popular chorus of the 20th century. "Go on now! Go! Walk out the door! Just turn around now! Cause you're not welcome any more!" The smiles grow wider as the dancers dwell on ancient heartbreaks and contemplate revenge. "I will survive..."

Gloria Gaynor's *I Will Survive* was number one for a month in 1979, topping a chart filled with such pop classics as Sister Sledge's *He's the Greatest Dancer* and Elvis Costello's *Artery*. That year alone it sold seven million copies, now the record company has lost track of its worldwide sales. It was the anthem for every woman who had been jilted or abused, who had lost and regained her self respect. Sixteen years later it is a favourite with the gay community, and the most requested karaoke song.

When Gaynor gyrated on *Top of the Pops* in a less-than-flattering sequined boob-tube, you could tell that this woman was singing from the heart. Gloria was the essence of the 1970s: she was gold eyeshadow and platform heels, Afro hair and white teeth; she smoked cocaine in Studio 54 and drank champagne with Donna Summer.

But this was two decades

ago and the Gaynor of the 1990s is no more likely to squeeze into a boob tube than to launch into a rendition of *Anarchy in the UK*. A matronly figure in black, with only a gold lame top to hint at her former glamour, she sips herbal tea. The only drugs she takes are antibiotics for her sore throat.

Gaynor, now 48 and in town to promote her autobiography, *Soul Survivor*, says the transformation came about in 1982, when she became a born-again Christian. She was rich, she was famous, she was married to her manager, Linwood Simon, but was she happy?

"Oh, I was miserable," she breathes huskily. "I couldn't hold onto a relationship. I was going on with whatever other people did, drugs, alcohol, and I was sure they only liked me because I was a singer. I thought, what if I got a really bad throat one night? Nobody would want me any more."

Gloria Fowles was born in a New Jersey ghetto. Her mother, Queenie May, had seven children by three different men; Gloria's father, a vaudeville artist, left home before she was born. "Growing up without a father left me with a great fear of loneliness."

She had a hit with *Newer Can Say Goodbye* in 1974, the first disco record to be played on American radio. She made the first non-stop dance album

and was voted Queen of the Discos by the International Association of Disc Jockeys. None of this, however, matched up to *I Will Survive*, which was written for her by her producer, originally as a B-side. Was Gaynor thinking about her two abortions and numerous failed relationships,

"When I sang the song I was thinking of my mother"

as she belted out this feminist anthem?

"No," she says. "I was thinking of my mother who had passed away eight years prior. I thought I'd never survive her death. She was my backbone, she was the only one who loved me unconditionally. Then there was the fact I was standing there in a back brace. I'd tripped over a microphone wire on stage and the doctors thought I'd be paralysed for life."

She was not, she says, thinking of Linwood, then a

New York cop, whom she had been dating for five years and who had turned down her 47 marriage proposals. "He would say 'Honey, when I get married, I'll do the asking,'" she sighs. "It was terrible but I really wasn't thinking about that when I sang the song, because I wasn't about to close the door on him anyway."

Having read *Soul Survivor*, I have no doubt that Gaynor should have changed that stupid lock and made Linwood leave his key. Instead she married him in 1979. They have split up several times but she assures me, "now he loves me more than ever before, because I am so much better a person."

Linwood, however, "has not changed at all. He's a big smoker," says his wife, who gave up marijuana, cigarettes and alcohol more than a decade ago. He rarely goes to church. "Linwood's wonderful, but he's still a human being. Only Christ has been able to give me security because His love is eternal. Every day He's going to love me, no matter what I do. That's what I was looking for in every relationship."

These days, Gaynor makes albums with a Christian theme and tours relentlessly, belting out *I Will Survive* night after night. "As long as people want to hear it, I will sing it," she says graciously. "I'm not sick of it yet, so I don't

see why I ever should be." Nonetheless, she refuses to sing it to me ("It's nothing without a backing track"), plumping instead to do a smoochy number from the new album.

A few years ago she offended her gay fans, who read her song as a defiance of Aids, by describing homosexuality as "an abomination." Now she is more diplomatic. "I believe every word of the Bible, but who am I to judge? Many of my friends are gay. The president of my fan club is gay."

In the old days, Gaynor says, she was never invited to parties. "I had to invite myself and then I wondered why no one would talk to me. People say I was very selfish and thoughtless. Today everybody tells me what a wonderful person I am." She gurgles with laughter. "The wonder is not me," she assures me. "It's Christ in me."

She has all her life to live and all her love to give, yet Gaynor has not yet overcome all the temptations that assail her. "I still love hamburgers," she wails, disconsolate. She is a British size 20 but her perfect skin and bright eyes make up for her voluptuous figure. Last year she prayed to the Lord to help her to spurn white flour and the next morning she had lost all desire for pasta and cake. So why can't the Lord help her with the burgers? "It doesn't work like that," says the soul survivor. "God gave us free will and it is up to me to use it."

Pawns in the battle for an island's heritage

Magnus Linklater on the tussle over ownership of the Lewis chess pieces



Chessmen from the most valuable set in the world

Last July, the British Museum generously lent the most valuable chess set in the world to the Island of Lewis. Now the islanders want to keep it.

That, in a nutshell, is the delicate issue which will confront the trustees of the museum when they meet on November 4, and the implications are as far-reaching as a move of Queen to P4 in a classic Petroff defence. For if the people of Lewis win their argument (and the people of Lewis have a habit of winning their arguments), there is no lack of claimants in regional museums up and down the country ready to follow their example and demand the return of their heritage.

It is, as a British Museum spokesman put it, "a question of repatriation which normally involves countries such as Greece and return of the Elgin marbles".

On one level it comes over like an episode straight from one of the late Crompton Mackenzie's more whimsical Highland comedies. A group of Hebridean islanders, who know a good thing when they see it, defy the bowler-hatted bureaucrats from London and, despite spluttering protests, outwit them with a typically Celtic combination of intransigence and guile.

But this being 1995, and with references to expensive litigation hanging in the air, the Lewismen have decided to play a longer game.

They have suggested that some at least of the chess pieces, which are carved in walrus ivory and date back to Viking times, should be returned to the island "on permanent loan". The British Museum is thinking about it.

The history of the Lewis chessmen is as colourful as their origins. They were dug up in 1831 on a beach in the township of Uig, on the island's west coast. A cow is said to have stumbled on them after they had been exposed by a storm and, when its owner looked at the strangely-carved figures, he ran off, terrified that he had witnessed some awful piece of witchcraft.

Once they had been excavated, however, they were found to be of Norse origin, dating back to the 12th century.

There were 67 pieces in all, the remains of four full sets, and though there were several examples of the main pieces, most of the pawns were missing. The kings, queens, knights and bishops, grim-faced, but equipped with superbly carved crowns, croziers, shields and swords, changed hands several times but were eventually bought from an Edinburgh merchant by the British Museum. They have been there ever since, although 11 of the pieces are on display in the National Museum of Scotland.

They have subsequently been reproduced around the world, and their value is reflected in the £1 million insurance tag for each king, and £100,000 for a pawn.

politan remoteness and latter-day colonialism and, when the British Museum failed to respond to the request, one councillor spoke of the "arrogance bordering on contempt" which London was displaying "towards the people of this island".

Wiser counsels prevailed when it was pointed out that the pieces were needed for an exhibition in Edinburgh, and that expensive legal action would be taken if they failed to turn up. But the council has not given up the quest. Instead, it has switched tactics and will press for a permanent loan of at least some of the pieces. The move will be watched with considerable interest by other museums around Britain.

Most of the British Museum's treasures were collected in the Victorian era when there were few regional museums, and none with the funds to buy and exhibit rare objects. But that has changed.

The National Museum of Wales might, for instance, fancy getting its hands on a valuable collection of early Welsh gold, including a fabulous medieval gold collar which the British Museum currently holds. Newcastle might press for Roman remains from Hadrian's Wall. Shetland might demand the St Ninian's treasure, a priceless collection of Viking silver, now housed in Edinburgh.

Of course, numerous small museums, many of them suddenly awash with lottery funding, might also start remembering local artefacts, excavated years ago, which would greatly boost their visiting figures if they were returned.

There is a genuine problem here which parallels the long-running debate about the Elgin marbles. How do you establish "ownership" of these ancient relics, and who is the best custodian?

Merely insuring the Lewis chessmen and housing them in the right conditions would be hugely expensive for the Western Isles Council as well as restricting access to a national treasure: the hundreds of thousands of visitors who see them regularly in the British Museum in London or the National Museum of Scotland at present would find the opportunities of doing so greatly reduced once they were permanently housed at the museum in Stormoy.

Perhaps the best solution would be the most radical one. The British Museum would accept the argument that the chessmen properly belonged to Lewis. They would tell the council that it could indeed have them back. But the condition would be that it was as generous in lending them out to others as the museum was in the first place — and of course it would have to foot the bill.

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THE PARIS ROAD

Out of the Maastricht maze and into a new Europe

The belief that France and Germany will drift more into conflict unless they are tightly bound together has dominated Europe's political geography for a generation. For Germany this anxiety was best summed up in Thomas Mann's famous call in 1947 for "a European Germany, not a German Europe". France's response was to set its foreign policy compass by "the construction of Europe". Today, however, with the gulf between Helmut Kohl and Jacques Chirac ever more openly acknowledged, a massive upset in the political gravity of Western Europe lies ahead. Paris is at its centre.

There has been an implicit bargain in the creation of this Franco-German axis — that of German horse and French rider. Postwar Germany was prepared to accept that the price of reconciliation was a Europe designed in Paris, a *jardin à la française*. France's aim was simple, and entirely compatible with its profound sense of statehood: a strong Europe with weak institutions, where the strong national governments remain firmly at the controls. But in 1990, there was an abrupt shift in the relative weight of the two partners in the Franco-German marriage. Until German unification, no French politician imagined for a moment that Europe might instead evolve as a geographical extension of the unique federal political model of postwar Germany. France's solution was monetary union. This autumn, it is not only monetary union, but the European political equation implied by it, that appears to be slipping from its grasp.

France is a deeply conservative country, historically held together by powerful centralising rulers, by pride in being a great nation and by a formidable talent for the unswerving pursuit of national interest. Far from representing a departure from France's fiercely independent political traditions, monetary union was a strategy to enhance French power by binding the economic power of a united Germany into a

new political partnership. The Germany of Herr Kohl signed up to the sacrifice of the mark in order to reassure its neighbours, east and west, that its new power would be harnessed to a common political project.

But now there is rising concern in Germany that France is not prepared to pay Herr Kohl's twin price for parting with the mark: rigorous fiscal discipline and a common foreign and security policy to offset Germany's lonely eminence in central Europe. The French, in turn, are no longer confident that Herr Kohl can or will override the Bundesbank and popular opposition to force through a single currency in 1999. German revulsion at France's nuclear tests has intensified an already perilous atmosphere of mutual distrust; its protests are countered in France by increasingly public muttering that Germany is a political dwarf that has suddenly grown too fast.

The Franco-German axis is unstable. Mr Chirac is frank about it, saying that while it remains important, it is no longer "sufficient" to maintain Europe in political balance. If a new equilibrium is to be struck, Britain cannot play the spectator. Nor can it safely treat the debate over post-Maastricht Europe as a question of minor adjustments to the Maastricht treaty. However unwelcome Britain rightly believes monetary union to be, new emerging principles for Europe will be needed to contain the political strains which a collapse, or even a deferral, of the project would impose.

A rapid eastward expansion of the EU is one way to repair Europe's political fabric and ease Germany's security concerns; another would be the semi-reintegration of France with NATO. To persuade France to accept both policies, Germany needs Britain's help. In turn, Bonn should accept the maintenance, in an enlarged Europe, of a national veto in EU councils when vital national interests are at stake. Some such pattern of exchanges offers escape from the Maastricht maze — and a road to a Europe with which the British can truly be at ease.

RELATIVE VICTORY

Blair's education policy is better for Labour than for Britain

Tony Blair won decisive and deserved backing from the Labour Party conference yesterday for his modernising education policy. In his speech on Tuesday, the Opposition leader took a calculated gamble by emphasising the role of the classroom in his vision for a rejuvenated nation. A Labour Government, he promised, would champion standards and school discipline. Bad teachers "should not be teaching at all". Britain would have to improve its woeful performance in international education league tables.

Like all New Labour policy, this approach can be interpreted in two ways: relative and absolute. Relatively speaking, it is a remarkable step forward. Labour is the party of the public sector unions and the education establishment; a high proportion of the delegates to its conference are teachers or school governors. Until recently, its opposition to the Tory education reforms has been implacable. Mr Blair and his education spokesman, David Blunkett, should be congratulated for bringing the party so far in little more than a year.

Yet in absolute terms, Labour's educational policy remains deeply flawed. It is one thing to ask how the party's policies have shifted, and quite another to ask whether such policies would be good for schools. Yesterday Roy Hattersley argued that the leadership's plans for the grant-maintained sector were "a lifeline" for opted-out schools. The trouble is that the opposite is true.

Wholesale restoration of grant-maintained schools to local authority control may have been ruled out. But the new structure of "foundation" schools proposed by Labour is still a threat to those schools which have already chosen to leave town hall control or

would like to do so. It is impossible to be half opted-out. Under Labour's proposals, each foundation school would have to appoint two local authority governors; 10 per cent of its funding would be retained by the local council; its admissions policy would be dictated by town hall bureaucrats. Above all, parents would lose the right to choose whether their school was controlled by the local authority or not. Benign language cannot disguise the fact that this is a major step backward.

Such a reform would also prevent schools from becoming selective if they wished. Under present arrangements, an opted-out school can apply to the Education and Employment Department to change its admissions policy where appropriate. Mr Blair made clear on Tuesday that he opposes academic selection. He also opposes "social selection", presumably a reference to the connection between high property prices and high academic performance. It is hard to see what any Government, Labour or Conservative, could do about this linkage.

Most regrettable was Mr Blair's promise to abolish the Assisted Places Scheme, which allows children from deprived backgrounds to go to independent schools, and to spend half the savings on reducing class sizes. This encapsulates the envious mentality which still pervades Labour's education policy. On the one hand, the party proposes to deny bright but disadvantaged children an opportunity to rise above their circumstances; on the other, it perpetuates the myth that the problem with our education is a lack of resources and that smaller classes will resolve difficulties of the past. Does Mr Blair really believe this? If so, he may be in for a shock.

SHOCK FATIGUE

Hyperbole can only damage a worthy cause

Competition for the charity pound has never been so fierce or so sophisticated. Even the best known causes are having to fight general "compassion fatigue" as well as rival campaigns. But this desperate race to seize the popular conscience cannot justify wilful deceit or tasteless exaggeration in charity advertising.

In its new report, the Advertising Standards Authority upholds complaints against well-known charities. Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace and the International Fund for Animal Welfare. In the case of Friends of the Earth, the ASA criticised an advertisement that featured a mahogany lavatory seat overflowing with blood. The film implied that the manufacture of all mahogany furniture resulted in loss of life, with the statement: "If the Brazilian Indians who own the trees don't want to sell them they can pay with their lives." The ASA found no evidence of a link between the logging industry and mass murder of Brazilian Indians.

Greenpeace was criticised by the ASA for a newspaper advertisement that showed a photograph of the genitals of a male statue with the headline "You're not half the man your father was". The claim made was that your father was causing chemicals dumped in the sea were causing a shrinkage of the modern male penis, a reduction in sperm count, testicular cancer and urethral abnormalities. The ASA found that there was no conclusive proof of a cau-

sal link between pollutants and the male health problems cited by Greenpeace. Once again, an advertisement had gone beyond the facts in its quest for sensational impact.

The case of the International Fund for Animal Welfare was more complex. It seems to be engaged in a long-running war of attrition with the British Field Sports Society. Some advertisements simply gave vivid and contentious accounts of how animals were treated by hunters. The ASA picked its way through the conflicting evidence. But the charity's case proved to be weakest where it was most impressionistic in its likening of hunters to sadistic murderers.

All three of these charities are pressure groups which aim to influence public policy. As such, their activities and promotional campaigns verge on the political. But many charities, perhaps under the influence of aggressive advertising agencies, are choosing to go for "shock" campaigns that make deliberate use of hyperbole. As the ASA comments, some charities argue that competition from the National Lottery makes sensational campaigning more necessary. But the danger is that the credibility of charitable causes will be devalued by this cheapening of their image. This form of advertising can have only diminishing returns: when a knowing public becomes immune to hyperbole, shock fatigue will join compassion fatigue as an obstacle to charitable giving.

Windfall tax plans 'penalise success'

From Mr George R. J. Guise

Sir, Privatisation has been an enormous success. Utilities now deliver their product at constant or falling real prices with far greater efficiency and customer support than ever. Enormous wealth has been created. Indeed, the present argument about how that wealth should be distributed among owners, management and customers, is ample evidence that the wealth is there to be squabbled over.

Between 1986 and 1990, as a member of the Prime Minister's Policy Unit, I was closely involved in many of the privatisations currently reaping such benefit for the nation. I will remember the exhaustive and even pedantic scrutiny with which leading merchant banks and stockbrokers examined the detailed operating and financial projections at the time proposals were written and prices set.

What no one anticipated — and I am referring to the finest financial brains in the City as well as politicians and civil servants — was the enormous improvement in delivery which privatisation would catalyse.

Investors who bought shares on those prospectuses were wise and reaped subsequent wealth. However, there were no warnings about potential drawbacks by the original vendor in the event of exceptional profits. Sometimes, a buyer and seller recognise that neither knows the ultimate value of the product being sold and therefore agree a clawback or sweetener if subsequent events should prove that the item was underpriced.

No such arrangements were made for the utilities sold in the Eighties. For the Government retroactively to achieve that effect by abusing its powers of taxation would and should devalue its credentials in the eyes of every past, present and future investor.

Because of Crown immunity, we are not given to suing the Government in Britain, but there are many American and overseas investors who would do exactly that if subsequent events prove a prospectus false. A windfall tax, as advocated by your newspaper (leading articles, September 18, 22 and 30), would certainly help Treasury coffers in the short term. It might even buy votes from the envy-driven classes; but it would shatter the credibility of the same Conservative Government that acted as vendor.

There is enormous privatisation activity all over the world and international investors do not have to come to Britain. The Government will nevertheless expect to see them when Railtrack and the nuclear companies come to market.

However, they would be well advised to stay away if that same Government were now to blow its credibility as an honourable vendor by filing its coffers through penalising the success of others.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE GUISE,
90 Long Acre, WC2,
October 3.

Tory candidates

From Mrs Elizabeth Dodsworth

Sir, My own experience does not bear out the research into the age of Conservative Party members quoted by Mrs Caroline Stratford (letter, October 2).

Richmond, North Yorkshire, selected as the candidate William Hague at the age of 27 from a list of over 300 applicants. At the age of 34 he is now the youngest member of the Cabinet since Harold Wilson. Many of the other applicants of a similar age have since been selected for other Conservative seats and are active participants in the affairs of our country. In Richmond the average age of the initial selection committee was just over 50 with two members under 30 years of age.

Contrary to Mrs Stratford's assertion that the Conservative Party is undemocratic, its guidelines have only one purpose, to ensure a democratic selection procedure. Each association is autonomous and the final choice of candidates rests with the members of that association.

Yours faithfully,
ELIZABETH DODSWORTH,
Well Hall,
Well, Bedale, North Yorkshire,
October 3.

From Mr John L. Marshall, MP for Hendon South (Conservative)

Sir, I was surprised to read in your report today that I might be a possible contender to succeed Steve Norris.

The selection meeting for the new Finchley and Golders Green constituency, which includes the bulk of my former Hendon South constituency, is due to take place on Wednesday, November 1.

I have made it clear that I am seeking to stay loyal to those constituents who have stood by me and enabled me to increase my majority at two general elections. I am therefore not seeking selection elsewhere.

When asked by a member of another association to apply for nomination from its constituency I flatly refused to do so.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN L. MARSHALL,
House of Commons,
October 2.

Business letters, page 29

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Cuts in funding for medical research

From Professor J. F. Lamb,
Chairman, the Save British
Science Society

Sir, Just as a significant advance in combating AIDS is announced (report, September 26) our Government is busily cutting the funding for this and related research, while misleading the public about it.

At a press conference on May 22, attended by John Major, Michael Heseltine (then at the DTI) and David Hunt (then Minister for Science), it was claimed that the Government was allocating an additional £40 million through the Office of Science and Technology and £70 million from the DTI over the next three years to fund medical and other projects associated with the Technology Foresight programme for improving links between the universities and industry.

However, the Save British Science Society has calculated that in real terms the actual combined allocations show a decrease of £72 million over this period, not an increase. This means, for instance, that nearly three quarters of the Medical Research

Council's most highly rated research projects cannot be funded.

While SBS strongly supports the Foresight initiative, we strongly deplore the fact that money for this exercise is being removed from research council budgets. The councils are meanwhile being pressed to fund short-term projects rather than investigate basic problems — despite the fact (cited by Nigel Hawkes in his article of September 26, "Can money find an AIDS cure?") that the speed of identifying HIV as the causal agent resulted from earlier research "funded out of curiosity".

By these actions the Government is denying the electorate the benefits expected to flow from medical research, as well as destroying the seed-corn of Britain's future. It is sad that a politician's word cannot be trusted unless supported by independent evidence.

Yours etc,
JOE LAMB,
Chairman,
The Save British Science Society,
Box 241, Oxford OX1 3QQ,
October 2.

Stonehenge plans

From Sir George Young,
Secretary of State for Transport

Sir, I was disappointed to see your one-sided attack on the Government over the Stonehenge issue ("Stones of shame", leading article, September 29). This was quite unjustified, given that the Department of Transport is consulting all the interested parties on this very sensitive road scheme.

DoT is looking forward to an open discussion at the planning conference to be held between November 6 and 10 in Salisbury, under the independent chairmanship of the engineering consultant, Mr Robin Wilson.

The purpose of the conference is not to promote any particular solution, but to consider the possible solutions to the manifest problem. Neither the department nor the Highways Agency has any preconceived ideas on the outcome.

I am sorry that Jocelyn Stevens of English Heritage has not welcomed the idea of an open planning conference, but I hope he will make full use of the opportunity it presents to him and others to present alternative ideas and to seek consensus on the most appropriate solution.

For our part, we and the agency stand ready to consider constructively the recommendations that emerge from the conference. We do not see it as our role to try to reach decisions before the conference begins.

Lottery benefits

From Mr Denis Vaughan

Sir, The report we published yesterday (report, September 29) proposed a rearrangement of charitable funding from the National Lottery, not its total abolition.

We show in our report that the Treasury gains more from the increased economic activity generated by lottery money being invested in sport and the arts than by its direct 12 per cent tax. Therefore, to the 28 per cent of the lottery turnover presently going to good causes we propose adding the Treasury's 12 per cent.

The report goes on to propose that 80 per cent of this good-cause money should go to the National Lottery Charities Board, leaving the minimum 5 per cent required by law to each of the other four beneficiaries. This restores the lottery to the shape proposed for it by the 1978 Rothschild

'Rock' verdict

From Mr Roger Bolton

Sir, In your report (September 28) on the European Court of Human Rights' decision in the *Death on the Rock* case [see also letters, October 3] you accused the Thames TV programme of having "greatly muddled" the evidence. We did no such thing. We discovered fresh evidence and new witnesses.

At the end of our programme, which produced worrying questions which have still not been satisfactorily answered, a leading QC suggested that a British judicial inquiry was the best way of resolving these doubts. If

Royal Commission on Gambling.

The reason the lottery was founded was to improve the quality of life through new facilities for leisure pursuits, mainly arts and sports. The recognised effect of this is to help fight the invasion of drugs and crime into the lives of young people. The NLBC should give this clear profile to the lottery.

By making sure that the bulk of its payments go to recreation and those aspects of sport which are charitable, and all those artistic activities which keep the young away from a life of boredom, the lottery can have, within quite a short time, a beneficial effect in most of the homes of the people who actually play it.

Yours etc,
DENIS VAUGHAN
(Executive Director),
The Lottery Promotion Company Ltd,
41 Floral Street, WC2,
September 29.

the Government has such faith in the superiority of British justice compared to that of the European court, why doesn't it institute such an inquiry?

You also raised the question of whether Thames TV lost its franchise because of *Death on the Rock*. It certainly made it more difficult for Thames to win back that franchise, but if Thames had bid more money than Carlton it would have done so.

Yours sincerely,
ROGER BOLTON
(Editor, *This Week*, 1986-1989),
Roger Bolton Productions,
122-128 Arlington Road, NW1,
September 28.

Short rations

From Mrs Helen C. W. Smelt

Sir, I, too, dislike being deprived of my third initial (letters, September 23, October 2).

The NHS has a variation. Both my GP's surgery and the local hospital give as much of first names as their computers can accommodate: thus my third name, Witham, has become "With".

What is the legal position when my signature — as below — differs from the name various organisations bestow?

Yours faithfully,
HELEN C. W. SMELT,
7 St Hilda's Road,
Hexham, Northumberland,
October 2.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

Who shall we put on our pedestals?

From Dr Brian Porter

Sir, Lord Thomas of Swynerton's idea that we should do more to commemorate the country's greatest writers (letter, September 30) is much to be welcomed, but to do so at the expense of the statues of our Victorian dukes and generals would impoverish the public stock of harmless pleasure. The Duke of Cambridge in Whitehall, for instance, is sheer Osbert Lancaster.

As for Marlowe, is not the proper place for his statue Canterbury, where he was born? Hitherto lacking any statue of a public figure (cathedral sculptures apart), Canterbury may at last get one. A move is afoot to erect in the city a double statue of Ethelbert, greatest of the Kentish kings, and his queen, Bertha, daughter of the King of Paris.

Without their patronage Augustine's mission to bring Christianity to the English could hardly have succeeded. Canterbury, Kent, and England — and indeed ultimately the English-speaking world — owe to this royal pair a whole civilisation.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN PORTER,
Rutherford College,
University of Kent,
Faculty of Social Sciences,
Canterbury CT2 7NX,
October 1.

From Professor J. C. Higgins

Sir, Lord Thomas is surely overdoing it with his seven great writers. Three or four perhaps, but what about our scientists? Britain will also be remembered for, say, Newton, Faraday and Darwin, so please put them on pedestals too.

Yours etc,
J. C. HIGGINS,
36 Station Road,
Baldoin, Shipley, West Yorkshire.

From Mr M. I. Webb

Sir, Lord Thomas of Swynerton's suggestions concerning replacements for existing statues might be thought to be frivolous, but he did resist the thought of replacing Nelson's statue in Trafalgar Square by T. S. Eliot's. That would have put the cat amongst the pigeons.

Yours sincerely,
MAURICE WEBB,
Smiddy House,
Eymouth, Berwickshire,
October 1.

Eye of the beholder

From Mr Henry Mee

Sir, Pleased as I was that your respected critic Richard Cork wrote about my painting of HRH The Princess of Wales ("Shining, but not pretty", September 29) I can't help feeling that he should have had the benefit of actually seeing the work before writing about it.

The area of white paint that he suggested should have been painted out as soon as it made the carvas was in fact blue. A small point, but one which indicates that the quality of the reproduction on which he based his comments was poor.

Mr Cork will be well aware that total relationships can profoundly alter the way the drawing is perceived.

Yours faithfully,
HENRY MEE,
14 Lloyd Square, WC1,
October 1.

Time travel

From the Reverend J. C. Puddefoot

Sir, The atoms which currently make up my body were once certainly constituents of other bodies. If I were to travel back in time with the same body (report and leading article, October 2), those atoms would need to be in two places at once. If this is impossible, so is time travel into the past.

Yours faithfully,
J. C. PUDDFOOT
(Head of Mathematics, Eton College),
Benson House, Willowbrook,
Eton, Windsor, Berkshire.

From Mr Alan Bird

Sir, You report that time travel is now theoretically feasible. If all the resources of the world could be poured into sending one expedition into the past, what should be its aim?

A prime contender must be to murder Hitler or some other monster in infancy. But how could anyone resist the idea of sending Schubert a cure for his syphilis?

Yours faithfully,
ALAN BIRD,
3 Trinity Cottages, Richmond, Surrey,
October 3.

So it must be true

From the Reverend Wilfrid Moss

Sir, It is often wise to believe what one reads in the newspapers (letter, September 28). The great England and Lancashire cricket captain, Archie MacLaren (1871-1944), on an occasion when he was given out lbw, turned to the umpire and said: "That was never out." The latter replied: "You look in the Evening News, Mr MacLaren".

Yours faithfully,
WILFRID M. MOSS,
4 West View Close,
Middlelepy, Bridgwater, Somerset,
October 1.

STEPHEN MacKEITH

NEWS

Inquiry into 'trial by tabloid'

The Attorney-General launched an unprecedented inquiry into the activities of national newspapers yesterday after a trial was stopped for what the judge called unlawful, misleading, scandalous and malicious reporting.

The move came after Judge Sanders halted the prosecution of Geoff Knights, boyfriend of the *EastEnders* actress Gillian Taylforth, for wounding and assault. Pages 1, 4

Labour pledge on opt-out schools

Labour has pledged to curb the independence of grant-maintained schools, including ending selection by examinations and interviews with parents. But opt-out schools would survive under a Labour government, in spite of a sustained Brighton assault from Roy Hattersley, former deputy leader, and constituency activists. Pages 1, 12, 13, 20 and 21

Cracks in O. J. jury

The O. J. Simpson jurors who swore to not talk to the media have broken their silence. One juror said she agreed to acquit Mr Simpson even though she thought he "probably did it". Pages 1, 3, 20, 29

Speech plea

Tony Blair's press secretary wrote to the BBC and ITN to try to influence coverage of Mr Blair's speech by imploring broadcasters not to lead their news with the Simpson verdict. Pages 1

M15 on crime

Stella Rimington, Director-General of M15, says the Security Service and the police should join forces to combat the growth in organised crime. Page 1

College call

A self-styled university college that recruited in America was traced to an answering machine in east London. Page 2

Equality scores

A woman who said she was refused employment as a linesman has been given an apology, compensation and a promise to adopt non-discriminatory selection. Page 5

Lawyers accused

Solicitors are too often handing out shoddy, inappropriate advice and charging wildly varying fees for the same work, according to a survey by *Which?* Page 6

49,000 are in the money

Britain has a record 49,000 millionaires, with the gap between self-made and inherited fortunes narrowing, according to figures published by financial analysts. In 1988, according to Inland Revenue statistics, there were only 18,000 millionaires. The soaring value of the Stock Exchange, after its crash in 1987, is a major factor behind the rise. Page 5



A French soldier points his gun at a resident after troops landed on the Comoros Islands to end the coup attempt yesterday. Page 16

BUSINESS

Barings: Nick Leeson, the British trader blamed for bringing down the Barings merchant bank, must return to Singapore to face trial for fraud and forgery, a German court ruled yesterday. Page 25

Economy: The International Monetary Fund believes that a single European currency is unlikely by the 1999 deadline. However the IMF urged governments not to use the slippage in the Maastricht timetable as an excuse to go soft on cutting budget deficits. Page 25

Housing: Mortgage lenders will today call for the abolition of stamp duty and seek additional help for first-time buyers in an effort to revive the housing market. Page 25

Markets: The FT-SE 100 Index rose 19.9 points to close at 3544.1. Page 28

SPORT

Rugby union: After a century of one-way traffic, Jonathan Davies, the former Wales stand-off half and captain, is bidding to leave Warrington to return to rugby union with Cardiff. Page 48

Rugby League: Martin Offiah will miss England's opening World Cup match against Australia on Saturday after failing a fitness test on a calf strain. Page 48

Boxing: Lennox Lewis takes on Tommy Morrison in Atlantic City on Saturday knowing that only victory will reinforce his claim to be one of the world's leading heavyweights. Page 44

Tennis: Shirl-Ann Siddall, the British No. 2, misses today's Maureen Connolly Trophy match against the United States. Page 46

Disney goes historical: *Pocahontas*, the new Disney cartoon, is a sanitised adaptation of a real historical incident; other new films include Ken Loach's superb Spanish Civil War saga *Land and Freedom*. Page 35

Buster's year: The National Film Theatre is mounting a retrospective of silent classics by Buster Keaton, who was born 100 years ago this week. Page 35

Plaster revived: One of Harold Pinter's earliest plays, *The Hothouse*, has been successfully staged in the West End with Pinter himself playing a leading role. Page 36

Chinese sounds: A village band from rural China is about to embark on a tour of major British venues. Page 37

Soul survivor: Gloria Gaynor was an insecure woman, she says, when she belted out *I Will Survive* in 1979. Now she has found God. Page 19

An aspirin a day: Dr Thomas Stumford describes a simple protection against heart attack: drug cocktails that help to subdue Aids; dangers of illegal mussels. Page 18

Low flying: British charter companies have begun talks with South Africa that could cut the cost of a flight from London to Johannesburg in half. Page 41

Whatever one thinks about the shockingly swift acquittal of O. J. Simpson, this "trial of the century" has left a stigma on criminal justice that could take years to repair. — *New York Times*

The protections afforded defendants in American courts... may not ensure a universally popular result or even a just one, but they exist to guarantee a fair trial to rich celebrities and common folk alike. They should not lightly be changed, in reaction to a single verdict. — *Washington Post*

IN THE TIMES

KD'S LATEST
New albums by kd lang, left and Simply Red are reviewed by David Sinclair

PLUS
Valerie Grove meets Tessa Keswick, the socialite in charge of a Tory think-tank

THE TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0801 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London	701
West/Surrey/Sussex	702
Devon/Hants & Dorset	703
Derby & Cornwall	704
Wiltshire/Avon/Somerset	705
Berks/Bucks/Oxon	706
Bedfordshire & Luton	707
Northants/Suffolk/Cambs	708
West Mid & Shropshire	709
Shropshire/Staffordshire	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Leics & Humbers	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
W & S Wales	716
N & E England	717
W & S England	718
SW Scotland	719
W Central Scotland	720
East of Scotland & Borders	721
E Central Scotland	722
Grampian & E Highlands	723
NW Scotland	724
Galashiels, Orkney & Shetland	725
W Ireland	726
Westland	727

Weathercall is charged at 30p per minute (cheap rate) and 40p per minute at all other times.

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/news information, 24 hours a day, dial 0300 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks	731
Area within M25	732
South West/Sussex/Berks/Oxon	733
Devon/Surrey/Sussex/Hants	734
Derby & Cornwall	735
Wiltshire/Avon/Somerset	736
Northants/Suffolk/Cambs	737
West Mid & Shropshire	738
Shropshire/Staffordshire	739
Central Midlands	740
East Midlands	741
Leics & Humbers	742
Dyfed & Powys	743
Gwynedd & Clwyd	744
W & S Wales	745
N & E England	746
W & S England	747
SW Scotland	748
W Central Scotland	749
East of Scotland & Borders	750
E Central Scotland	751
Grampian & E Highlands	752
NW Scotland	753
Galashiels, Orkney & Shetland	754
W Ireland	755
Westland	756

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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday's highest day temp: Llan-on-Ouse, North Yorkshire, 21C (70F); lowest day temp: Llanwrst, Shetland, 11C (52F); highest night temp: Llanwrst, Shetland, 11C (52F); lowest night temp: Llanwrst, Shetland, 11C (52F).

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THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,978

General: much of England and Wales will be bright and breezy with sunshine at times and a scattering of showers. Most of the showers should be light and should die away during the afternoon as cloud pushes into the west. Westernmost parts are likely to see some rain towards midnight. Scotland and Northern Ireland will also be showery, especially in the west, where the showers could be heavy and prolonged. There should be some sunshine, the best of it in the east. Later in the day, more cloudy conditions will push into Northern Ireland, bringing rain after dark.

ABOUT THE WEATHER

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=light; c=cloud; d=drizzle; dsh=drizzle showers; dshf=drizzle showers; g=gentle; h=heavy; m=moderate; s=sunny; sh=showers; sl=sleet; st=storm; t=thunder; w=wind; x=other.

Central N: sunny spells, scattered showers. Drier later. Wind southwest moderate, becoming southerly later. Max 17C (63F).

SW England, S Wales, N Wales, NE Scotland, Argyl, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland, N Ireland: sunny intervals and showers. More cloudy later with rain in west towards midnight. Wind southwest moderate, southerly fresh later. Max 16C (61F).

Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee: drier sunny spells, scattered showers developing. Drier later. Wind southwest moderate or fresh, becoming southerly later. Max 15C (59F).

SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Moray Firth: often cloudy but brighter spells. Showers, some heavy and prolonged. Wind south, southerly fresh, locally strong. Max 14C (57F).

SE England, Central S England, W Midlands, Cheshire, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man:

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,978

Across
1 Firm agreement (7)
5 Play endlessly with a sweet wrapper and make a noise with one's hands (7)
9 Primed by a jolly journalist (5)
10 Popular worry about a church meeting-place (9)
11 United oddly resent one linesman (9)
12 Bohemian reported for inhibition (5)
13 Old chap accepting pound as rent (5)
15 Inferior food artist, say, will provide in general (9)
18 See again a dance by Americans in the centre (9)
19 Balance the books, perhaps, if lines are added (5)
21 A bit of a bloomer or an awful lapse? (5)

Solution to Puzzle No 19,977

QUAGMIRE E S W
N U M A U G U S T E R
S T A Y A S G O O
O N I G H T M A I N
W A I E O O G
C A N N O N R I G H T O F
R E N E N H U
A D D E N D A B E D E V I L
N R I N R N
T A C H T U R N C U L O R F
E N S E O G
L O N G D I V I S I O N O R
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Times Two Crossword, page 48

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Times Two Crossword, page 48